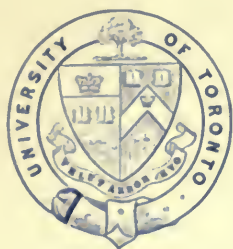




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NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

Adapted from the original by James Cundie, London.

THE
NATURALIST'S CABINET
OF
Interesting Sketches
OF
Animal History
VOL. 2.



*Published by James Cundee &
London.*



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THE
NATURALIST'S
CABINET:

Containing
INTERESTING SKETCHES

OF
ANIMAL HISTORY;

Illustrative of the
NATURES, DISPOSITIONS, MANNERS, AND HABITS,

OF ALL THE MOST REMARKABLE

Quadrupeds, Birds, Fishes, Amphibia, Reptiles, &c.
IN THE KNOWN WORLD.

REGULARLY ARRANGED, AND ENRICHED WITH NUMEROUS
BEAUTIFUL DESCRIPTIVE ENGRAVINGS.

"Who can this field of miracles survey,
And not with *Galen* all in rapture say,
Behold a *God*, adore him, and obey?"

BLACKMORE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

BY THE

REV. THOMAS SMITH,

Editor of a New and Improved Edition of Whiston's *Josephus*, &c. &c.

ALBION PRESS PRINTED:

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THE
Naturalist's Cabinet.

CHAP. I.

The rein-deer, unharness'd, in freedom shall play,
And safely o'er Odon's steep precipice stray ;
The wolf to the forest's recesses shall fly,
And howl to the moon as she glides through the sky.

LAPLAND SONG.

THE REIN-DEER.

General description.

THE general height of this animal is about four feet; but one, formerly in the possession of Sir H. G. Liddell, bart. is said to have measured only three feet three inches from the hoof to the shoulder. The hair on the body is of a dark brown colour, and on the neck, brown mixed with white; but as the animal advances in age it often becomes of a greyish hue. The space about the eyes is always black. A large tuft of hair depends from the throat, near the breast. The hoofs are long, broad, and deeply cloven; the under part is covered with hair, in

Description, &c.

the same manner that the claw of the ptarmigan is defended by feathery bristles. Both sexes are furnished with horns, but those of the male are considerably the largest. These are long, slender, branched, and furnished with brow antlers. It may also be remarked, that the same necessity which obliges the Laplanders to use snow shoes, makes the extraordinary width of the rein-deer's hoofs to be equally convenient in passing over snow, as it prevents their sinking too deep. This quadruped has, therefore, an instinct to use a hoof of such a form in a still more advantageous manner, by separating it when the foot is to touch the ground, so as to cover a larger surface of snow. The instant, however, that the leg is raised, the width of the foot becomes inconvenient: the hoof, therefore, is then immediately contracted, and the collision of the parts occasions a snapping or crackling noise, which is heard upon every motion of the animal.

Pontopiddan, bishop of Bergen, in Norway, informs us, that "the rein-deer has over his eyelids a kind of skin, through which it peeps, when otherwise, in hard showers of snow, it would be obliged to shut its eyes entirely."

To the natives of Lapland this animal is an excellent substitute for the horse, the cow, the goat, and the sheep; and may be said to constitute their only real wealth. The milk affords them cheese; the flesh, food; the skin, clothing; the tendons, bow-strings and thread; the horns,

glue; and the bones, spoons. During the winter the rein-deer also supplies the want of a horse, and draws their sledges across the frozen lakes and rivers, or over the snow, with surprising velocity.

Hence our admired poet Thomson has elegantly observed,

“ Their rein-deer form their riches: these their tents,
Their robes, their beds, and all their homely wealth
Supply; their wholesome fare, and cheerful cups:
Obsequious at their call, the docile tribe
Yield to the sledge their necks, and whirl them swift
O'er hill and dale, heap'd into one expanse
Of marbled snow, as far as eye can sweep,
With a blue crest of ice unbounded glaz'd.”

These animals are gregarious, and may sometimes be seen in flocks of a thousand each. In autumn they seek the highest hills to avoid an insect called the Lapland gad-fly; which, at that time, deposits its eggs in their skin; and not unfrequently occasions their death. The moment a single fly appears, the whole herd fling up their heads, toss about their horns, and at once attempt to fly for shelter amidst the snows of the loftiest Alps. They have also other enemies, among which are bears and wolves; but they are frequently able to defend themselves against these animals, and even to drive them off. In summer they regale on a variety of plants; but during winter they feed principally on the rein-deer livewort; which they industriously dig up from beneath the snow, with their feet and antlers.

There is also another kind of lichen, found on the Lapland pines, which affords food to these animals when the snows are too deep to allow them to reach the liverwort.

Rein-deer cast their horns annually. The rudiments of the new horns are at first covered with a kind of woolly membrane, as soft as velvet; which the creature, after some time, rubs off. Crantz also tells us, that they change their hair every spring, during which time they are very lean, and of little use. The female goes with young eight months, and generally brings forth two at a time; which she nurtures and attends with truly maternal fondness. They follow her two or three years, but do not acquire their full strength until four. At that age they are trained to labour, and continue serviceable for four or five years. It is said, that they are able to swim across the widest rivers, with such force and celerity, that a boat with oars can scarcely keep pace with them.

Rein-deer were formerly unknown in Iceland, but by order of governor Thodal, thirteen head were sent over from Norway in the year 1770, of which ten died before they reached the place of destination: but the three remaining ones thrived remarkably well, and in the first two years produced several fawns.

There is a breed of these quadrupeds betwixt the wild buck rein-deer and the tame doe, called by the Laplanders *kaffaigiar*, which is very useful



REIN DEER.

Antelope 1866, by James Audubon, Esq.

in long journies, being considerably taller and stronger than the tame ones. These, however, retain much natural wildness, and sometimes not only refuse to obey their master, but turn restive, and strike at him so furiously with their feet, that his only resource is to cover himself with his sledge, on which the enraged animal vents its fury. The tame deer, on the contrary, are equally active and submissive.

It is generally understood that, with a couple of rein-deer yoked to a sledge, a Laplander is able to perform a journey of one hundred English miles in a day; and the Laplanders assert, that in twenty-four hours, they can thrice change the horizon, or, in other words, they can three times pass that object, which, at their setting out, they saw at the greatest distance they could reach with their eyes.

The Lapland slédge is extremely light, and formed somewhat like a boat, having a back-board in it for the rider to lean against. Its bottom is convex, and to preserve himself from oversetting, the traveller must balance it by a careful poise of his body and hands. This, however, he does with great dexterity; and by means of a stick with a flat end, he easily removes stones or any other obstructions he may meet with. To the peak in front of the sledge a thong is fixed, which yokes the rein-deer. The bit is a piece of narrow leather tacked to the reins of the bri-

Mode of taking rein-deer.

dle over the animal's head and neck; and from the breast a leather-strap, passing under the belly, is fastened to the fore-part of the sledge, which serves instead of shafts. The person in the sledge drives the animal by means of a goad, and generally encourages it with singing some of those love-songs, for which the natives of Lapland are deservedly celebrated.

The Samoiedes frequently go out in parties for the purpose of killing these useful animals; and when they perceive a herd, they station the tame rein-deer that they bring with them on an elevated plain to the windward. Then, from this place to as near the savage herd as they can safely venture to approach, they put into the snow long sticks, at small distances, and to each of them tie a goose's wing, which flutters about freely with the wind. This being done, they plant similar sticks and pinions on the other side, under the wind; while the rein-deer, being employed in seeking their food under the snow, observe nothing of these preparations. When every thing is ready, the hunters separate; some hide themselves behind their snowy intrenchments, while others lie with bows and other weapons in the open air to the leeward, and others again go to a distance, and by a circuitous route, drive the game between the terrific pinions. Scared by this unusual spectacle, the wild-deer run directly to the tame ones, which are standing by the sledges; but here they are alarmed

by the concealed hunters, who drive them to their companions that are provided with arms, and these immediately commit terrible devastation among them.

If a wild herd be discovered feeding near a mountain, the hunters hang up all their clothes on stakes about the foot of the mountain, making also with the aforementioned pinions a broad passage towards it, into which they drive the game. As soon as they are come into this path, the women go with their sledges directly across the farther end of it, and thus enclose the rein-deer; who immediately run round the mountain, and at every turn are saluted by a shot from their enemies.

In autumn, which is the season of love among these quadrupeds, the hunters select a strong and vigorous buck from their droves, to whose antlers they tie nooses, and then turn him loose among the wild herd. The wild stag, on observing a strange rival, immediately rushes forward to punish his temerity; but, during the contest, his antlers are so completely entangled in the loops, that when he perceives the hunter, and strives to escape, the tame buck strikes his head to the ground, and there pins his antagonist fast till the marksman can kill him.

The rein-deer is found in Greenland and Spitzbergen, and is very common in the northern parts of Asia, as far as Kamtschatka, where some

Description, &c.

of the most opulent of the natives keep herds of five or ten thousand in number.

In the year 1786, five rein-deer were brought to England, and kept at a gentleman's seat in Northumberland. They bred, and there was every prospect that they would succeed: but, unfortunately, some of them were killed, and the remainder died in consequence of a disorder similar to that called the rot in sheep, supposed to have resulted from the richness of their pasturage.

THE STAG.

THIS animal is the most beautiful of the deer genus; and the elegance of its form, the flexibility of its limbs, and the grandeur of its branching horns, give it a decided pre-eminence over every other inhabitant of the forest.

The colour of the stag in England is generally red; but in most other countries it is brown or inclining to yellow. The eye is remarkably beautiful and animated; the hearing quick; and the sense of smelling extremely acute. The voice becomes stronger and more tremulous in proportion as the animal advances in age.

The males only have horns, and these are always shed about the latter end of February, or the beginning of March. During the first year, the young animals exhibit only a short protube-

Growth of the horns.

rance, covered with a thin hairy skin. In their second year the horns are straight and single; the following year produces two antlers, or branches; and they generally have an additional one every year till their sixth, from which time the animals may be considered at maturity. When the stag sheds his horns, he retires to the most sequestered places, and feeds only during the night; for otherwise the flies settle on the soft skin of the young horns, which is exquisitely tender, and keep the animal in continual torture. The place of the horn is for a little time occupied by a soft tumour, full of blood, and covered with a downy substance, like velvet. This increases every day, till, at length, the antlers shoot out on each side. When the horns are at their full growth, they acquire strength and solidity; and the velvet covering dries up, and gradually falls off, till the whole antlers acquire their complete expansion and beauty.

These animals are gregarious, and feed in herds of many females and their young, headed by one male. So fond are they indeed, of grazing in company, that danger or necessity alone can separate them.

Much has frequently been said, and many wonderful stories related of the extreme longevity of the stag; but later observations have rendered it probable, that this animal does not often attain the age of fifty years.

The female seldom produces more than one.

young one at a time, and this about the latter end of May or the beginning of June. The utmost precaution is requisite to hide the young; the eagle, the falcon, the osprey, the wolf, the dog, and all the rapacious family of the cat-kind, being in continual employment to find out the retreat. The stag himself is also a professed enemy, and the female is obliged to use all her arts to conceal her offspring from him, as from the most dangerous of her pursuers. At this season, therefore, she seems endued with extraordinary courage; defends her beloved charge against her less formidable opponents by force; and, when pursued by the hunter, she even offers herself to mislead him from the principal object of her concern. Instances have occurred in which the affectionate mother has fled before the hounds for several hours, and then returned to her young, whose life she thus preserved at the hazard of her own.

The flesh of the stag is a palatable food, and the skin is serviceable for various purposes. The horns, when full grown, are solid, and used for making knife-handles, &c. From these also the salt of hartshorn is extracted.

In venturing upon unknown ground, or quitting his native forests, the stag stops at the skirts of the plain to examine all around; he next turns against the wind, to examine by the smell, if any enemy be approaching. If a person happen to whistle, or call, at a distance, the stag stops short,

Mode of fording rivers—Choice of food, &c.

and gazes upon the stranger with a kind of awkward admiration; and if he perceive neither dogs nor fire-arms preparing against him, he goes slowly forward, with apparent unconcern. Man is not the enemy he is most afraid of; on the contrary, he seems delighted with the sound of the shepherd's pipe; which, on that account, is sometimes used to allure him to destruction.

In fording a wide river these animals are said to rest their heads on each other's rumps. When the leader is fatigued, he retreats to the rear, and the next in succession takes his place. They swim with the utmost facility, and Pontoppidan assures us, that in some instances, a male has been known to venture out to sea in search of females, and to cross from one island to another, although at a distance of some leagues.

The stag is extremely delicate in the choice of his food; which consists partly of grass, and partly of the young branches and shoots of various trees. When satisfied with eating, he retires to the covert of some thicket to chew the cud in security. His rumination, however, seems performed with greater difficulty than that of the cow or sheep; for the grass is not returned from the first stomach without much straining, and a kind of hiccup, which is perceptible during the whole time it continues. This is supposed to proceed from the great length of the neck, and the narrowness of the passage, all animals of the

Stag-hunting in Louisiana.

cow and sheep-kind having theirs considerably wider.

In Louisiana the natives hunt these animals both for food and amusement; the chase being sometimes undertaken in companies, and sometimes alone. The hunter, who goes out alone, furnishes himself with a gun, a branch of a tree, and the dried head of a stag, having part of the skin of the neck attached to it. On discovering the objects of his pursuit, he conceals himself behind the bush, which he carries in his hand, and approaches very gently till he is within shot. If the animal appear alarmed, the hunter immediately counterfeits the deers' call to each other, and holds the head just above the bush; then lowering it towards the ground, and lifting it by turns, he so completely deceives the stag with the appearance of a companion, that he seldom fails to approach it, and thus becomes an easy victim.

When a large party is formed on these occasions, the hunters form a wide crescent round one of the animals, the points of which may be half a mile asunder. Some of them approach towards the stag, which runs, affrighted, to the other side; but finding them advancing in that quarter also, he immediately rushes back again. In this manner he is driven from side to side, the hunters gradually approaching, and closing into a circle, till at length he is so much ex-

hausted as no longer to be able to stand against them, but quietly submits to be taken alive. It sometimes happens, however, that he has sufficient strength left to stand at bay, in which case he is seized from behind, but seldom in this case before some one is wounded. Du Pratz observes, that this mode of hunting is merely adopted as a recreation, and is called "the dance of the deer."

Of the instinctive courage of the stag some surprising anecdotes have been related; one of which I have taken the liberty to extract from the very splendid and interesting work, entitled, the "Sportsman's Cabinet."

"It is now not more than fifty years ago that the following experiment was made by the order and under the immediate superintendence of his Royal Highness the late Duke of Cumberland, to ascertain the true and natural instinctive courage of the stag when opposed to an enemy of the most formidable and terrific description.

"To effect this, one of the ablest stags in Windsor forest was enclosed in an area, formed upon a selected spot near the lodge, and surrounded with a remarkably strong net toiling, full fifteen feet high; and this ceremony took place in sight of Ascot Heath races, so that thousands were present upon the occasion. When every thing was prepared, and the stag parading in majestic consternation at the astonishing assemblage of people around the net-work; at the

Instance of courage in a stag.

awful moment, when it may be naturally conceived every heart beat high with wonder, fear, and expectation; a trained ounce, or hunting-tiger was led in, hood-winked, by the two blacks that had the care of him, and who, upon signal, set him and his eyes at liberty. Perhaps so general a silence never prevailed among so many thousands of spectators as at that moment, when the slightest aspiration of a breeze might have been distinctly heard.

“The tiger, taking one general survey, instantly caught sight of the deer; and, crouching down on his belly, continued to creep exactly in the manner of a cat drawing up to a mouse, watching the opportunity to dart upon his prey with safety. The stag, however, most warily, steadily, and sagaciously turned as he turned; and this strange and desperate antagonist found himself dangerously opposed by the threatenings of his formidable brow-antlers. In vain did the tiger attempt every manœuvre to turn his flanks,—the stag possessed too much generalship to be foiled upon the *terra firma* of his native country by a foreign invader.—This cautious warfare continuing so long as to render it tedious, and probably to protract the time of starting the horses upon the race-ground; his Royal Highness enquired if, by irritating the tiger, the catastrophe of the combat might not be hastened. He was answered, it might probably prove dangerous, or be attended with disagreeable consequences; but



STAG AND Ounce.

As they live by James Charles Bonfren.



it was ordered to be done; upon which, the keepers proceeded very near the tiger, and did as they were directed; when immediately, without attacking the deer, with a most furious and elastic bound, he sprang at and cleared the toiling that enclosed them; landing amidst the clamours, shouts, and affrighted screams of the multitude; who fled in every direction, each male and female individually thinking themselves the destined victim of the monster's rage; who, nevertheless, regardless of their fears or their persons, crossed the road, and rushed into the opposite wood; where he fastened upon the haunch of one of the fallow-deer, and brought it to the ground. His keepers, to whom he was perfectly familiarized, hesitated, for some time, to go near him; at length, however, they summoned resolution to approach, and, cutting the deer's throat, separated the haunch which he had seized, and led him away with it in his mouth."



Domestic horses widely diffused.

CHAP. II.

"The fiery courser, when he hears from far
 The sprightly trumpets, and the shouts of war,
 Pricks up his ears and trembling with delight,
 Shifts place, and paws, and hopes the promis'd fight.
 On his right shoulder his thick mane reclin'd,
 Ruffles at speed, and dances in the wind :
 His horny hoofs are jetty, black, and round,
 His chine is double ; starting with a bound,
 He turns the turf, and shakes the solid ground. }
 Fire from his eyes, clouds from his nostrils flow ;
 He bears his rider headlong on the foe.

VIRGIL GEORGE.

THE HORSE.

THE horse, in a domestic state, is found in almost every part of the globe; except, perhaps, within the Arctic circle; and its reduction and conquest may be justly regarded as the greatest acquisition from the animal world, that human art and industry have ever made. But it has been remarked by an admired writer, that to form an idea of this noble animal in his native state of simplicity, we are not to look for him in

the pastures or stables to which he has been consigned by man; but in those wild and extensive plains where he has been originally produced, where he ranges without control, and enjoys that freedom bounteous nature has given him.

In the extensive deserts of Africa, and the widely spread countries that separate Tartary from the more southern nations, these quadrupeds are frequently seen in herds of five or six hundred together; but Arabia is the spot where they are found in the highest state of perfection. To the Arabs they are as dear as their own children; and the constant intercourse resulting from living in the same tent with their owner and his family, occasions a familiarity that could not otherwise be effected, and a tractability that only the kindest usage can induce. They are the fleetest animals of the desert, and are so admirably trained as to stop in their most rapid course, by the slightest check of the rider. Unaccustomed to the spur, the least touch with the foot sets them again in motion; and so obedient are they to the rider's will, as to be directed in their course merely by the motion of a switch. They constitute the principal wealth of many of the Arab tribes, who use them both in the chase, and in their predatory expeditions. The Arab, his wife, and children, always lie in the same apartment with the mare and foal; who, instead of injuring, suffer the children to repose on their bodies and necks without in the least incommoding them:

Attachment of the Arabs to their horses.

the gentle animals even seem afraid to move lest they should hurt them. Cruelty and severity are never practised; for an Arab treats his horse as if he were a friend, and never even strikes him, on a journey, but in cases of absolute necessity. "The Arabian horses," says Goldsmith, "are of a middle size, easy in the motion, and rather inclined to be lean than fat. They are regularly dressed morning and evening with the greatest care, and their legs, mane, and tail are frequently washed; but the hair is seldom combed, under the apprehension of making it thin. They are kept without food during the day, but at sun-set a bag of clean barley is hung upon their head, and they are allowed to eat all the night.

Of the great attachment, which the Arabians have for these animals, a tolerable idea may be formed, from the following anecdote, extracted from St. Pierre's *Studies of Nature*.

"The whole stock of a poor Arabian of the desert consisted of a beautiful mare; this the French consul at Saïd offered to purchase, with an intention of sending her to Louis the Fourteenth. The Arab, pressed by want, hesitated a long time, but at length consented, on condition of receiving a very considerable sum of money, which he named. The consul wrote to France for permission to close the bargain, and having obtained it, sent the information immediately to the Arab. The man, so indigent as to possess



THOMAS J. J.

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only a miserable rag, a covering for his body, arrived with his magnificent courser. He dismounted, and looking first at the gold, and then stedfastly at his mare, heaved a deep sigh:—"To whom is it," he exclaimed, "that I am going to yield thee up? To Europeans! who will tie thee close, who will beat thee, who will render thee miserable! Return with me, my beauty, my jewel! and rejoice the hearts of my children!" As he pronounced the last words, he sprang upon her back, and was out of sight almost in a moment.

M. Sonnini observes, "that the horses of the Bedouin Arabs, whose lives are spent in traversing the scorching sands, are able, notwithstanding the fervency of the sun, and the suffocating heat of the soil over which they pass, to travel three days without drinking, and are contented with a few handfuls of dried beans given once in twenty-four hours. From the hardness of their labour and diet they are, of course, very lean, yet they preserve incomparable vigour and courage."

It is a curious fact, that the Arabians preserve the pedigree of their horses with the utmost care for several ages. They know their alliances, and all their genealogy, and divide the races into three distinct classes: Of these, the first is that of the nobles, or the ancient breed, of pure and unadulterated blood; the second is that of the ancient

Wild horses.

race, but adulterated; and the third is that of the inferior or common kind,

The wild horses of Arabia, though very active and beautiful, are not so large as those that are bred up tame. They are, in general, of a brown colour; their mane and tail very short, and the hair black and tufted. Such is their astonishing swiftness, that it is utterly impossible to pursue them in the usual manner of the chase, with dogs; as they are almost instantly out of sight, and the dogs themselves soon relinquish the vain pursuit. It is, therefore, customary to take them by traps concealed in the sand, whence the hunter carries them home, and soon subjugates them by fatigue and hunger, to perfect obedience. The great value of Arabian horses, however, has, of late years, thinned the deserts, and there are now, comparatively speaking, but few to be found in those countries except such as are tame. In Ukraine, Tartary, where wild horses are often found, from the impracticability of taming them, they are made no otherwise serviceable to man than as food. The flesh both of the young and old animals is frequently exposed for sale in the markets. The latter is said to eat much like beef; whilst that of the foals is as white and more tender than veal.

The wild horses of South America are of Spanish origin, and entirely of the Andalusian breed. They are now become so numerous as to be

sometimes seen in herds of ten thousand. If they perceive any tame horses in the fields they gallop up to them, caress, and, by a kind of grave and prolonged neighing, invite them to run off. The domestic animals are soon seduced, unite themselves to the independent herd, and depart along with them. It happens not unfrequently that travellers are stopped on the road by the effect of this desertion. To prevent this they halt as soon as they perceive these wanderers; watch their own horses; and endeavour to frighten away the others: in this case the wild horses resort to stratagem; some are detached before, and the rest advance in a close column, which nothing can interrupt. If they are so alarmed as to be obliged to retire, they change their direction, but without suffering themselves to be dispersed. When the natives wish to convert some of these quadrupeds to domestic purposes, a number of persons, mounted on horseback, attack a troop of them, and when they are able to approach, they throw ropes round their legs, which preclude the possibility of their running away. They are soon tamed, but must be carefully watched to prevent them from rejoining their wild friends.

In Norway, where most of the roads are impassable for carriages, the horses are remarkably sure-footed, they skip along over the stones, and are always full of spirit. Pontoppidan informs us, that when they go up and down a steep cliff,

Descending dangerous roads—Mode of defence.

on stones like steps, they first gently tread with one foot, to try if the stone be firm; and in this they must be left entirely to their own management, or the best rider in the world would run the risk of breaking his neck. When they have to descend steep and slippery places, (and such frequently occur) they draw their hind-legs together under their bodies, in a truly curious manner, and thus slide down. They exhibit great courage in contending, as they often do, with the wolves and bears, but particularly with the latter. When a stallion perceives any of these animals near him, and has a mare or gelding with him, he first puts these behind out of the way, and then furiously attacks his enemy with his fore-legs, which he uses so expertly as generally to come off victorious. Sometimes, however, the bear, who is very superior in point of strength, gets the advantage, particularly if the horse make any attempt, by turning round, to kick him with his hind-legs; for the bear then immediately closes upon him, and keeps such firm hold as scarcely by any means to be shaken off: in this case the unfortunate horse gallops away with his enemy, till he falls and expires from loss of blood.

It has been justly remarked, that few countries can boast a breed of horses so excellent as those of Great Britain. The English hunters are allowed to be among the noblest and most elegant animals in the world: and, after repeated trials,

Exertions of British horses.

it has been satisfactorily ascertained that they are capable of performing what no others can. Among our racers we have had one (Childers) which has been known to pass over eighty-two feet and a half in a second of time;—a degree of fleetness perhaps unequalled by any other animal of this species. In the year 1745, the post-master of Stretton rode, on different horses; along the road to and from London, no less than two hundred and fifteen miles in eleven hours and a half, a rate of above eighteen miles an hour: and in July, 1788, a horse belonging to a gentleman in London, was trotted for a wager thirty miles in an hour and twenty-five minutes; which is at the rate of more than twenty-one miles an hour. In London a single horse has been known to draw the weight of three tons: and some of the pack-horses of the North usually carry burthens of four hundred pounds; but the most remarkable proof of the strength of these animals is in our mill-horses, some of which have been known to carry, at one load, thirteen measures of corn, that in the whole would exceed nine hundred pounds in weight.

Yet, notwithstanding his prodigious strength, and surprising powers of body, such is the disposition of the horse, that he very rarely exerts either to his owner's prejudice. Providence seems to have implanted in him a benevolent disposition, and a fear of the human race, with, at the same time, a certain consciousness of the

Recollection of injury—Barbarous practices.

services they are capable of rendering him. One remarkable instance of recollection of injury, and an attempt to revenge it is, however, inserted in a work of D. Rolle, Esq. of Torrington, in Devonshire:—A baronet, one of whose hunters had never tired in the longest chase, once encouraged the cruel thought of attempting completely to fatigue him. After a long chase, therefore, he dined, and again mounting, rode him furiously among the hills. When brought to the stable, his strength appeared so completely exhausted, that he was scarcely able to walk. The groom, possessed of more feeling than his brutal master, burst into tears at the sight of so noble an animal thus sunk down. Some time afterward, the baronet entered the stable; upon which the horse made a furious spring upon him, and had it not been for the groom's interference, he would indisputably have prevented him from ever again misusing his animals.

Docking the tails and cutting the ears of horses, are two barbarous practices very prevalent in England. The former, principally with waggon horses, under the idea that a bushy tail collects the dirt of the roads; and the latter, from the supposition that they are rendered more elegant in their appearance. The absurdity of this conduct, however, must appear on reflection; for, by taking away their ears, those funnels are destroyed, which they always direct to the place

Cruelties practised on horses—A horse without hair.

whence any sound is heard, and they are thus rendered nearly deaf; and in the deprivation of their tail, they find even a still greater inconvenience. But of all others, the custom of nicking them is the most useless and absurd. "It is an affecting sight," says a respectable writer, "to go into the stable of some eminent horse-dealer, and there behold a range of beautiful steeds with their tails cut and slashed, tied up by pullies to give them force, suffering such torments that they sometimes never recover the cruel gashes they have received; and for what is all this done?—that they may hold their tails somewhat higher than they otherwise would, and be for ever after deprived of the power of moving the joints of them as a defence against flies!"

A French writer has recently published a description of a horse without hair, which he considers as a variety in the species, and whose state, he says, is neither the effect of art nor of disease. This animal, taken from the Turks, and afterward purchased at Vienna, appeared to be about twenty years of age. He was lean, and remarkably susceptible of cold; and the whole body was destitute of hair, except the eye-lashes of the lower eye-lid. The skin was black, bordering upon grey, with some white spots under the fore-shoulders, and in the groin: it was also soft to the touch, glossy, and rather unctuous. The bones of the nose were depressed, which embarrassed his respiration, and produced a noise

Characteristics.

each time that he took in or emitted air. He is said to have eaten the same food, and in about the same quantity as other horses.

THE ASS.

THIS animal bears so near a resemblance to the horse, both in its external and internal conformation, that, upon a superficial view, we might be induced to suppose them of the same species; but a more careful examination will convince us, that they are perfectly distinct, and that nature has drawn an insuperable line between them.

"The ass," says M. Buffon, "is naturally as humble, patient, and quiet, as the horse is proud, ardent, and impetuous. He suffers with constancy, and perhaps with courage, chastisement, and blows; he is moderate both as to the quantity and quality of his food, being contented with the hardest and most disagreeable herbs, which the horse and other animals will leave with disdain: he drinks as moderately as he eats; but is very delicate with respect to his water, for he will drink none but the cleanest, and from rivulets with which he is acquainted. He never wallows in the mud or water; but will even turn out of his road to avoid wetting his feet: his legs are also drier and cleaner than those of the horse."

In a state of native wildness, as seen in the

Wild asses.

mountainous deserts of Tartary, the southern parts of India and Persia, and some parts of Africa, the ass exhibits an appearance very superior, both in point of beauty and vivacity, to the animals of the same species in a state of domestication.

Asses are gregarious, living in separate herds, each consisting of a chief, and several mares and colts, sometimes to the number of eighteen or twenty. They are remarkably timid, and provident against danger. A male takes on him the care of the herd, and is always on the watch. If a hunter, by creeping along the ground, has got near a herd, the centinel, on discovering him, takes a considerable circuit, and goes round and round, as apprehensive of danger. As soon as the animal is satisfied, he rejoins the herd, which sets off with great precipitation. Sometimes, however, his curiosity proves fatal; as he approaches so near as to give the hunter an opportunity of shooting him.

The food of wild asses consists of the saltiest plants of the deserts, and the milky tribes of herbs. They also prefer salt water to fresh; in consequence of which the hunters generally lie in wait near the ponds or springs of brackish water, whither they resort to drink.

The senses of hearing and smelling in wild asses are so exquisite, that it is but seldom they can be approached without the utmost difficulty.

Mode of taking wild asses.

The Persians catch them in pits, which they fill about half up with plants: into these the asses fall without bruising themselves, and are taken thence alive. When properly broken and domesticated they sell at a high price; being at all times celebrated for their amazing swiftness.

Asses were first imported into America by the Spaniards: and that country seems to be peculiarly favourable to the species; for, where they have run wild, they have multiplied so rapidly, that in some places they have become quite a nuisance. In the kingdom of Quito, the proprietors of the grounds where they are bred, suffer all persons to take away as many as they can, on paying a small acknowledgment, in proportion to the number of days the sport of hunting lasts. The mode of catching them has been thus described:—A number of persons go on horseback, and are attended by Indians on foot; when arrived at the proper places, they form a circle, in order to drive them into some valley; where, at full speed, they throw the noose, and endeavour to halter them. The creatures, finding themselves inclosed, make very furious efforts to escape; and, if only one force his way through, they all follow with an irresistible impetuosity. However, when noosed, the hunters throw them down and secure them with fetters, and thus leave them till the chase is over. Then, in order to bring them away with greater facility, they

Fleetness—Mode of descending the Alps, or Andes.

pair them with tame asses; but this is not easily performed, for they are so remarkably fierce, that they frequently wound the persons who undertake to manage them."

These wild animals possess all the fleetness of the horse; and neither declivities nor precipices can check their career. When attacked, they defend themselves by means of their heels and mouth with such address, that, without slackening their pace, they often maim their pursuers. It is worthy of remark, however, that after carrying their first load, their celerity leaves them, their dangerous ferocity is lost, and they soon contract the dulness and stupidity peculiar to their species. They always feed together; and, if a horse happen to stray into the place where they graze, they all fall upon him, and, without even allowing him to retreat, they bite and kick him till they leave him dead on the spot.

The manner in which these quadrupeds descend the dangerous precipices of the Alps or the Andes is too curious to be passed over without notice. In the passes of these mountains there are often on one side steep eminences, and on the other frightful abysses; and, as these, for the most part, follow the direction of the mountain, the road forms at every little distance steep declivities of several hundred yards downwards. These can only be descended by asses; and the animals themselves seem perfectly aware of the

danger, by the caution they use. When they come to the edge of one of the descents, they stop of themselves, without being checked by the rider; and if he inadvertently attempt to spur them on, they continue immoveable, as if ruminating on the danger that lies before them, and preparing for the encounter: for they not only attentively view the road, but tremble and snort at the danger. Having at length prepared for the descent, they place their fore-feet in a posture as if they were stopping themselves; they then also put their hinder feet together, but a little forward, as if they were about to lie down. In this attitude, having taken a survey of the road, they slide down with the swiftness of a meteor. In the mean time all that the rider has to do is to keep himself fast on the saddle, without checking the rein, for the least motion is sufficient to destroy the equilibrium of the ass, in which case both must inevitably perish. But their address in this rapid descent is truly wonderful; for, in their swiftest motion, when they seem to have lost all government of themselves, they follow the different windings of the road with as great exactness as if they had previously determined on the route they were to follow, and taken every precaution for their safety. In this journey, the natives, who are placed along the sides of the mountains, and hold themselves by the roots of the trees, animate the animals with shouts, and encourage them to perseverance.

Spanish and Egyptian asses.

Some asses, after being long used to these journeys, become famous for their skill and safety: and their value is augmented in proportion to their celebrity.

The Spanish breed of Asses has, by unremitting care and attention, become the finest in the world; as they unite in themselves the advantages of strength and elegance; and are often found to rise to the height of fifteen hands. The Romans had a breed which they held in such estimation, that Pliny mentions one of the stallions selling for upwards of three thousand pounds of our money; and the same author remarks, that in Celtiberia, a province of Spain, a she-ass has produced colts which were valued for nearly the same sum. It also appears from the accounts of modern travellers, that the finest of the Spanish asses sometimes sell for a hundred guineas or upwards.

In Egypt and Arabia asses are frequently seen of great size and elegance; and in their attitudes and movements they exhibit a degree of gracefulness unknown even in those of Spain. Their step is light and sure, and their paces are brisk, and easy. They are not only in common use for riding on in Egypt, but the Mahometan merchants, the most opulent of the inhabitants, and even ladies of the highest rank, use them; and not long since, they were the only animals on which Christians of any rank or quality were permitted to appear in the capital.

Egyptian asses.

Sonnini informs us, that in the principal streets of Grand Cairo, asses are kept ready bridled and saddled for hire, and answer the purposes of hackney-coaches in London. The person who lets them accompanies his ass, running behind to goad him on, and to cry out to those on foot to clear the way. They are regularly rubbed down; and washed; which renders their coat smooth, sleek, and glossy. Their food is the same as that of the horses, usually consisting of chopped straw, barley, and small beans. "Here," says M. Denon, they seem to enjoy the plenitude of their existence: they are healthy, active, cheerful, and the mildest and safest animals that a person can possibly have. The natural pace is a canter or gallop, and without fatiguing his rider, the ass will carry him rapidly over the large plains which lie between different parts of this straggling city."

As these animals are more hardy than horses, they are generally used by the Mahometan pilgrims in the long and laborious journey to Mecca; and the chiefs of the Nubian caravans, which are sixty days in passing immense solitudes, ride upon asses, that on their arrival in Egypt do not appear fatigued. When the rider alights, he has no occasion to fasten his ass; he merely pulls the rein of the bridle tight, and passes it over a ring on the fore-part of the saddle: this confines the animal's head, and is sufficient to make him remain quietly in his place.

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ASS.

Interesting anecdote.

The generally received opinion, that asses are stubborn and intractable animals, alike unmoved by harsh or affectionate usage is in a great measure unfounded; as will appear from the following anecdote, related in Church's Cabinet of Quadrupeds, on the authority of my friend Mr. Swan:—

“An old man, who a few years ago sold vegetables in London, used in his employment an ass, which conveyed his baskets from door to door. Frequently he gave the poor industrious creature a handful of hay, or some pieces of bread, or greens, by way of refreshment and reward. The old man had no need of any goad for the animal, and seldom indeed had he to lift up his hand to drive it on. His kind treatment was one day remarked to him, and he was asked whether his beast were apt to be stubborn? “Ah! master,” replied he, “it is of no use to be cruel, and as for stubbornness I cannot complain; for he is ready to do any thing, and go any where. I bred him myself. He is sometimes skittish and playful, and once ran away from me; you will hardly believe it, but there were more than fifty people after him, attempting in vain to stop him; yet he turned back of himself, and never stopped till he ran his head kindly into my bosom.”

THE COMMON OX.

FROM this well-known and useful animal are derived the numerous varieties of common cattle found in various parts both of the old and new continent. In its wild and native state it is distinguished by the depth and shagginess of its hair, which about the head, neck, and shoulders, is frequently of such a length as almost to touch the ground; and it grows to such an enormous size, as sometimes to weigh sixteen hundred or two thousand pounds. The horns are rather short, strong, and sharp-pointed, and stand distant from each other at their bases. The colour is generally either a dark or a yellowish brown. The limbs are very strong and muscular, and the whole aspect gloomy and ferocious.

Wild oxen are principally found in the marshy forests of Poland, among the Carpathian Mountains, in Lithuania, and also in several parts of Asia. It is also said that a breed of wild cattle (probably the only remains of that species in England,) is yet left in Lord Tankerville's park, at Chillingham, near Berwick-upon-Tweed.— Their colour is invariably white, with the muzzle black, and the whole inside of the ear, and about one-third of the outside, from the hip downwards, red. Their horns are white, with black tips, remarkably fine, and bent downward. The weight of the oxen is from thirty-five to

Wild cattle.

fifty-five stone, and of the cows, from twenty-five to thirty-five, 14lb. to the stone. Their flesh is said to be finely marbled, and of a peculiarly excellent flavour.

When these animals perceive any person approaching them, they set off in full gallop, and at the distance of two or three hundred yards wheel round and come boldly up again, tossing their heads in a menacing manner. They then stop suddenly at the distance of forty or fifty yards, and look wildly at the object of their surprise; but, on the least motion, they all turn round, and gallop off again with equal speed, but to a shorter distance; forming a smaller circle, and again returning with a more threatening aspect than before, they approach much nearer, probably within thirty yards, when they make another stand, and again gallop off. This they repeat several times, shortening their distance, and advancing nearer, till they come within a few yards, when it is advisable to leave them, as in a few turns more they would probably make an attack.

The ancient mode of killing these animals was very singular. On notice being given that a wild bull would be killed on a certain day, the inhabitants of the neighbourhood assembled, sometimes to the number of a hundred horsemen, and four or five hundred foot, all armed with guns or other weapons. Those on foot stood upon the walls, or got into trees, while the

Ancient mode of killing wild cattle.

horsemen drove off a bull from the rest of the herd, until he stood at bay, when they dismounted and fired. Sometimes on these occasions, twenty or thirty shots have been fired before the animal was subdued; in which case the bleeding victim grew desperately furious from the smarting of his wounds, and the shouts of savage exultation echoing from every side. But from the numerous accidents which happened, this dangerous practice has been disused of late years, the park-keeper generally killing the animal with a rifle-gun at one shot.

The cows of this species, at the time of parturition, seek out some sequestered retreat, where they conceal their young for a week or ten days; occasionally going to suckle them. The calves, if approached by any one, clap their heads close to the ground, and lie like a hare in form, to hide themselves. This seems a proof of their native wildness, and is corroborated by the following circumstance, related by Dr. Fuller, author of the History of Berwick. He found a hidden calf about two days old, very lean and weak; but on his stroking its head, it got up, pawed two or three times like an old bull, bellowed very loud, retreated a few steps, and bolted at his legs with all its force: it then began to paw again, bellowed, stepped back, and bolted as before. But being aware of its intentions, he moved aside, and it missed its aim, fell, and was so very weak, that though it made several efforts it was unable

to rise. The noise it had made, however, had alarmed the whole herd, and our author was compelled to retire.

It has been remarked, that when an individual of this species happens to be wounded, or is grown weak and feeble through age or sickness, the rest of the herd set upon and gore it to death.

There is scarcely any part of the ox that is not of some use to mankind. The skin is made into several kinds of leather; the hair is valuable in various manufactures; the horns, by human ingenuity, are wrought into boxes, combs, knife-handles, drinking-vessels, &c.; and when softened with boiling-water, they become so pliable, as to be formed into transparent plates for lanterns. The bones afford a cheap and excellent substitute for ivory; glue is made of the cartilages, gristles, and the finer pieces of cuttings and parings of the hides, boiled in water, till they become gelatinous and the parts sufficiently dissolved, and then dried; the sinews are converted into a fine kind of thread used by saddlers and others; the feet yield an oil of great utility in preparing and softening leather; and the importance of the suet, fat, and tallow is well known. Such are the advantages derived from the ox; and if we turn our attention to the cow, whose milk forms so rich and nutritive an aliment for the human species, and gives to our tables the important articles of butter, cheese, &c. we shall be almost induced to admire that superstitious veneration which the Gentoos

Veneration of the Gentoos for the ox and cow.

entertain for an animal to whom they are under so great obligations. To such a height, however, do they carry their reverence, that there is scarcely a Gentoo to be found that would not, were he under a compulsory option, prefer sacrificing his parents or children to the slaughtering of a bull or cow. Fully impressed with the simple doctrine of transmigration, they are also alarmed at the idea of injuring the souls of their fellow-creatures that have taken their abode in these animals. This restrains them from destroying, designedly, any of the brute creation, and induces them to respect in the flea as in the elephant that life which God alone can give.

Among the quadrupeds with which the earth abounds, none appears to be more extensively diffused than the cow; as it is found, either large or small, in proportion to the quantity and quality of its food, in every part of the world from the polar circles to the Equator. The life of this animal extends to about fifteen years; and its age may be ascertained with tolerable facility, as at the age of four years a ring is formed towards the root of the horns, and each succeeding year adds another.

The oxen of India are generally small, with short blunt horns, and humps on their shoulders. They are used in drawing chariots and other carriages, and will perform a journey of sixty days at the rate of twelve or fourteen leagues a day. Their ordinary pace is a brisk, but re-

Indian oxen.

markably easy trot. Instead of a bit, a ring is passed through the cartilage of their nostrils, to which is fastened a cord, that serves as a bridle. Those belonging to nabobs and other great men have their horns gilded, and are richly decorated with embroidered trappings. Four of these animals now (1806) in the menagerie at Exeter 'Change, are said to have been formerly kept by Tippoo Sultan, for the purpose of drawing his children.



CHAP. III.

"Behold, where bound, and of its robe bereft,
 By needy man, that all-depending lord,
 How meek, how patient, the mild creature lies!
 What softness in his melancholy face,
 What dumb complaining innocence appears!"

THOMSON.

THE SHEEP.

REGARDED with respect to its wants, its disposition, and utility, the sheep is, in a peculiar manner, the creature of man. Without his fostering care and protection its race would soon be exterminated; but his kindnesses are gratefully repaid by an ample contribution to his necessities and comforts. Hence it deservedly ranks next to the horse and the ox; for if the former of those noble quadrupeds be conducive to our pleasure, and to the expeditious performance of the greatest part of our business; and if the latter supply us with the most nutritious and wholesome part of our food, it is to the sheep that we are indebted for a considerable portion of our ali-

Disposition—Manners.

ment, and for the most essential part of our clothing.

This animal is singularly inoffensive, and discovers less animation and sagacity than many other quadrupeds; but the Comte de Buffon has been guilty of injustice in describing it as “ destitute of every necessary art of self-preservation, without courage, and even deprived of every instinctive faculty.” On extensive mountains where numerous flocks range at liberty, and, generally speaking, independent of the shepherd’s aid, they exhibit a very different character; and a ram or a wether has been frequently seen to attack a dog, and to come off victorious. When the danger is more pressing they have recourse to the collective strength of the whole, drawing up into a compact body, and presenting to every quarter an armed front, which cannot be attacked without the most serious danger to the assailant. It has also been observed, that few quadrupeds evince greater sagacity than the sheep, in the selection of its food; and its acuteness of perception in regard to the approach of a storm is no less remarkable.

The varieties of this useful animal, are so numerous, that no two countries produce sheep exactly of the same kind; an obvious difference subsisting in every breed, either in the size, the shape, the fleece, or the horns.

No country produces finer sheep than Great Britain, where the breed has been greatly im-

Various breeds of English sheep.

proved by the indefatigable attention of Mr. Bakewell, of Dishley, in Leicestershire; and, his example having been successfully followed in many instances, the improved Leicestershire breed is now held in the greatest esteem in most parts of the kingdom, and almost all the principal breeders endeavour to introduce some mixture of it into their stock.

The Lincolnshire breed are of a large size; and their fleeces in point of weight and utility greatly exceed those of Spain, owing to the rich luxuriant marshes on which they feed; but their flesh is coarse, lean, and not so finely flavoured as that of smaller sheep.

The Dorsetshire sheep are, for the most part, white-faced, with long slender legs, and scanty fleeces. Their flesh is sweet and well flavoured; and some varieties of the breed are diffused through most of the southern counties.

The largest breed of English sheep, however, is to be found on the Bank of the Tees, which runs through a fertile tract of country, dividing the two counties of Durham and Yorkshire. The legs of this kind are longer than those of the Lincolnshire breed, and support a thicker, firmer body; their wool also is much lighter and their flesh finer grained. They are remarkably prolific; the ewes generally producing two, and sometimes three or four lambs each season.

The Shetland sheep are generally destitute of horns, and peculiarly distinguished by the short-

Shetland sheep.

ness of their tails. Their bodies are small and handsome, and their wool is very superior to that of any other breed in the kingdom. It is worthy of remark, that these animals are never shorn; but, about the beginning of June, the wool is pulled off without the slightest pain, leaving a kind of long hair, which nature has provided to keep the creature warm and comfortable on this and other occasions.

In the mountainous parts of Wales, where the sheep enjoy so great a share of liberty as to render them very wild, they do not always collect into large flocks, but frequently graze in parties of from eight to ten or twelve, of which one is stationed at a distance from the rest, to give notice of the approach of danger. On observing any one approach, at the distance of two or three hundred yards, the centinel turns his face to the enemy, keeping a vigilant eye upon his motions, and allowing him to advance as near as eighty or a hundred yards; but, if the suspected foe attempt to come nearer, the watchful guard alarms his comrades by a loud hiss or whistle, which is repeated two or three times. Upon this signal the whole party scour away with inconceivable rapidity, and soon gain the most inaccessible parts of the mountains.

THE MANY-HORNED SHEEP.

THESE animals are natives of Iceland, and differ from the English breed in several particulars; having straight upright ears, a small tail, and sometimes four, five, or even eight horns. Their wool is long, smooth, and hairy; and under the outward coat, which falls off at certain periods, they have another covering, resembling a short and soft fur. They are of a dark brown colour, and the quantity of wool produced by each sheep is about four pounds. In some instances they are kept in stables during winter; but the greater part of them are left to seek their own food in the open plains. They acquire considerable fatness by feeding on the scurvy grass, of which they are particularly fond.

In stormy weather they hide themselves in caves from the fury of the elements; but when such retreats are not to be found, they collect together during the heavy falls of snow, and place their heads near each other, with their muzzles inclined towards the ground. This not only prevents their being so easily buried under the snow, but also renders them much easier to be discovered by the owner. In this situation they will sometimes remain so many days, that they are compelled by hunger to gnaw each other's wool, which, forming into hard balls in their stomachs, often destroys them. After the

Milk, wool, &c.

storm has subsided, however, they are generally sought for and disengaged.

A good sheep of the Icelandic or many-horned breed will yield from two to six quarts of milk a day; and of this the inhabitants make butter and cheese: but the most valuable part of these animals is the wool; which is not shorn, but remains on till the end of May, when it loosens of itself, and is stripped off at once like a skin. The whole body is by this time covered again with new wool, which is short and extremely fine. It continues to grow during the summer, and becomes towards autumn of a coarser texture, very shaggy, and somewhat resembling camel's hair. This covering enables the sheep to support the rigors of winter; but if, after losing their fleece, the spring prove wet, a piece of coarse cloth is usually sewn round the stomachs of the weakest to defend them from any ill effects.

THE BROAD-TAILED SHEEP.

THIS variety, principally found in Persia, Barbary, Syria, Egypt, and some other Oriental countries, does not differ much from the European sheep in the appearance of its body: but the tail is so remarkably large as to compose one third of the whole weight of the animal; and in order to prevent injury from the bushes, the

General description.

shepherds, in several parts of Syria, fix a thin piece of board on the under part, supported by wheels. This ample tail is mostly covered with long woolly hairs, and is composed of a substance betwixt fat and marrow, which is often used for culinary purposes instead of butter.

The skins of the sheep above Grand Cairo are used by most of the Egyptians for beds; since, besides their being very soft, it is said, that in sleeping on them persons are secured from the stings of scorpions, which never venture upon wool lest they should be entangled in it. These fleeces are taken off entire; and Sonnini informs us, that one of them, long and broad enough to serve a man as a matrass, was sold for a sum equivalent to twenty shillings sterling, whilst the whole animal alive and without its fleece, only brought about six shillings.

Their fleeces are remarkably long, fine, and beautiful; and, in Thibet, are made into shawls, which form a considerable source of wealth to the inhabitants. An idea formerly prevailed, that those shawls were made of the hair of the camel, and it is only since the English residents in India began to form a communication with Thibet that the real material of this manufacture has been known.

THE ARGALI.

THE argali, or wild sheep, is about the size of a small deer, with large arched horns, wrinkled on their upper surface, and flatted beneath. Those of some of the old rams are sometimes of such a prodigious size as to weigh fifteen or sixteen pounds each. In summer the fleece is of a brownish ash-colour, mixed with grey on the upper parts, and whitish beneath. In winter the former changes to a rusty, and the latter to a whitish grey.

These animals abound in Kamtschatka, where they furnish the inhabitants both with food and clothing. Their flesh, indeed, is held in such esteem that the Kamtschadales pronounce it fit diet for the gods; and whole families abandon their habitations in the spring of the year, and devote the entire summer to the employment of the chase amidst the steepest and most rocky mountains.

These sheep are generally killed with guns or arrows; sometimes with cross-bows placed in their paths, and discharged by their treading on a string. When chased by dogs, their fleetness is exerted to gain the heights, whence they look down upon their pursuers as it were with contempt. The purpose, however, is answered: for while their attention is thus occupied, the hunter

Hunting the argali.

creeps cautiously within reach, and brings them down with his gun or arrows.

The Kamtschadales do not shear these sheep, but leave the wool on till the end of May, when it becomes loose, and is stripped entirely off in one fleece. Mr. Pennant observes, that the dried flesh constitutes an article of commerce.

THE COMMON GOAT.

THIS lively and playful quadruped claims the next place to the sheep in the scale of creation, and in a variety of instances it seems nearly allied to that serviceable animal; but it is much more hardy, and in every respect better adapted for a life of liberty. It is easily domesticated, being sensible of caresses, and capable of a considerable degree of attachment. The inconstancy of its disposition, however, is strongly marked by the irregularity of all its actions: it walks, stops short, runs, leaps, approaches or retires, shows or conceals itself, or flies off as if actuated by mere caprice, and without any other cause than what results from eccentric vivacity of temper.

It prefers the uncultivated heath or the shrubby rock to the more luxuriant mead or plain; it delights in climbing the most inaccessible precipices, and is often seen suspended upon an emi-

Feet of the goat adapted for climbing precipices.

nence hanging over the sea, and sleeping in perfect security. One would hardly suppose, as Mr Ray observes, that the feet of this animal were adapted to such perilous achievements, but upon a closer inspection, we discover that nature has provided them with hoofs, which, being hollow underneath, with sharp edges, enable the creature to walk as securely on the ridge of a house as on level ground.

These animals from extreme familiarity, have sometimes become extremely troublesome. The Comte de Buffon relates, that in the year 1698, an English vessel having put into harbour at the island of Bonavista, two negroes went on board, and offered the captain as many goats as he chose to carry away. He expressed his surprise at this offer; when the negroes informed him there were only twelve persons on the island, and that the goats multiplied so fast as to become exceedingly troublesome; for, instead of being difficult to catch, they followed them about with an unpleasant degree of obstinacy, like other domestic animals.

M. Sonnini, in his edition of Buffon's Natural History, relates a curious instance of the readiness with which the goat will permit itself to be sucked by animals of a different kind and even of a much larger size than itself. He asserts that he saw, in the year 1780, a foal that had lost its mother thus nourished by a goat, which was placed on a barrel, in order that the young

Instance of a foal being nourished by a goat.

animal might suck with greater convenience. The foal followed its nurse to pasture, as if she had been its parent, and was attended with the greatest care by the goat, which always called it back by her bleatings when it wandered to any distance.

In the mountainous parts of Ireland, and the Highlands of Scotland, where no other useful animal could find subsistence, the goat gleans a sufficiency of food, and supplies the hardy natives with many of the necessities and conveniences of life. "They lie," says Goldsmith, "upon beds made of the skins of these animals which are soft, clean, and wholesome; they live upon their milk, with oaten bread; and they convert a part of it into butter, and some into cheese. In this manner, even in the mildest solitudes the poor find comforts of which the rich do not think it worth their while to dispossess them; in these mountainous retreats, where the landscape presents only a scene of rocks, heaths, and shoals, that speak the wretchedness of the soil, these simple people have their feasts and their pleasures; their faithful flock of goats attends them to these awful solitudes, and furnishes them with all the necessities of life; while their remote situation happily keeps them ignorant of greater luxury."

The milk of the goat is sweet, nutritious, and medicinal; less apt to curdle upon the stomach than that of the cow, and consequently preferable

to those whose digestion is weak. The female goat generally produces two or three young at a birth; but in warmer climates she is more prolific.

THE CHAMOIS.

THIS animal is about the size of the common goat, which it nearly resembles in every particular. Its head is embellished with black slender horns; about eight inches high, and recurved at the tips. At the back part of the base of each horn, there is said to be a tolerably large orifice in the skin, the nature and use of which does not yet seem to be clearly ascertained. The position of the ears is remarkably graceful; and the eyes are round, sparkling, and animated. The colour of the head is a yellowish white, exclusive of two black stripes that descend from the horns to the sides of the face; the body is of a dusky yellowish brown; and the tail sable on the upper surface.

These animals are found in flocks of from four to eighty, and even a hundred, dispersed upon the sublime and picturesque mountains of Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Dauphiné, &c. They do not feed indiscriminately, but select the most tender buds, delicate flowers, and aromatic herbs for their food; particularly the genipay and carline thistle, which, being the hottest productions of the Alps, are well adapted to the warmth of

Acuteness of smell and hearing.

their constitution. When they feed upon succulent herbage they drink but sparingly, and ruminate at intervals, like the common goat.

Their sight is very penetrating, and their senses of smelling and hearing so remarkably acute, that when the wind blows in a proper direction they can discover a man at a distance of a mile or upwards. Each herd is said to have a leader, who generally takes his station on some commanding spot, while his companions are feeding, and faithfully performs the duty of a centinel. On hearing or smelling any thing approach, he gives the alarm by a kind of whistle, which he continues as long as he can blow without taking breath: it is at first sharp, but flattens towards the conclusion. He then stops for a moment, looks round on all sides, and begins whistling afresh, which he continues from time to time. This is done with such force, that the rocks and forests reverberate the sound. His agitation is also extreme. He strikes the earth with his feet; ascends the highest stones he can find; again looks round with extreme anxiety; and leaps impatiently from one eminence to another, till the confirmation of his fears induces him to elude pursuit by an exertion of his natural speed. The whistling used on these occasions is purely nasal, and consists of a strong blowing, similar to the sound which a man may make by fixing his tongue to the palate, with his teeth nearly shut, his lips open and somewhat extended,

Chase of the chamois.

and blowing long, and with great force. It is also used exclusively as a signal of danger; the voice of the chamois at other times being confined to a gentle bleating.

The chamois scramble among the inaccessible rocks of the country they inhabit, with the utmost facility, always pursuing their course in an oblique direction. The strength and elasticity of their tendons are so great, that when seen at a distance, bounding from one precipice to another, a spectator might be almost inclined to suppose that nature had furnished them with wings.

The chase of the chamois is replete with difficulty and danger. It is generally performed in winter, and the most common method is to shoot the animals with rifle-barrelled guns, from behind some large mass of rock, or the excavations of the hills. Dogs are never used on these occasions; as they would merely alarm without overtaking, and would either provoke the objects of pursuit to turn upon the hunters and throw them down the precipice, or to fly off to an immense distance.

THE IBEX.

M. DE BUFFON considers the ibex as the stock from which the common goat has descended; and though somewhat larger, it has certainly a near resemblance to that animal. The head,

General description.

in proportion to the body, is small. The eyes are large, round, and brilliant; and the knotty incurvated horns measure from two to four feet in length: they are flattened before, round behind, and divided by several transverse ridges; and are of a dusky brown colour. The beard is long; the body short, thick, and strong; and the tail short and naked beneath. The hair is long, and of a brownish or ash-colour, with a streak of black running along the back. The belly and thighs are of a delicate fawn-colour. The female is about a third less than the male, and not so corpulent. Her colour is less tawny, and the length of her horns seldom exceeds eight inches.

These animals are principally found on the Pyrenean and Carpathian mountains, the highest points of the Rhætian Alps, and the lofty hills of Crete; where they assemble in flocks, consisting of sometimes ten or fifteen, but generally of smaller numbers. They feed during the night in the highest woods: but at sun-rise they quit the woods, and ascend the mountains, feeding in their progress, till they have gained the most considerable heights. They are commonly seen on the sides of those mountains which face the east or south, and repose in the highest places and hottest exposures: but when the sun is declining, they again descend towards the woods; and there they also pass the winter.

It has been observed, that the males which have attained the age of six years or upwards,

frequent more elevated places than the females and younger animals; and, as they advance in age, they become more inclined to solitude. They also become gradually hardened against the effects of extreme cold.

The season for hunting these quadrupeds is during the months of August and September, when they are in good condition. None but the inhabitants of the mountains, however, engage in this chase; for it not only requires a head that can look down from the most tremendous acclivity without terror, but also much strength, activity, and address. On these occasions, two or three hunters usually associate, armed with rifle-barrelled guns, and furnished with small bags of provisions; they erect a miserable hut of turf among the heights, where, without fire or covering, they pass the night; and, on waking in the morning, they not unfrequently find the entrance blocked up with snow three or four feet deep. Sometimes, also, while in pursuit of their prey, being overtaken by darkness, amid crags and precipices, they are compelled to pass the whole night standing, and embraced together, in order to support each other, and to prevent themselves from sleeping.

As the animals ascend into the higher regions very early in the morning, it is necessary to gain the heights before them; otherwise they scent the hunters, and fly off to a distance of several leagues. Their strength is also so prodigious,

Methods of escaping the hunters.

that when close pressed they sometimes turn upon the incautious huntsman, and tumble him down the precipices, unless he has time to lie down, and let the animal bound over him. Some authors have likewise asserted, that when they cannot otherwise avoid the hunter, they will even precipitate themselves from the summits of the rocks, and fall on their horns in such a manner as to escape unhurt; or that they will suspend themselves by their horns over the precipices, by a projecting tree, and remain in that situation till the pursuer abandon his fruitless efforts.

We are assured on respectable authority, that the ibex will mount a perpendicular rock of fifteen feet at three successive bounds, of five feet each. It does not appear as if he found any footing on the rock, seeming to touch it merely to be repelled, like an elastic substance striking against a hard body. If he happen to be between two rocks which are near each other, and he want to reach the top, he leaps from the side of one rock to that of the other alternately, till he has attained the summit. The fore-legs of these animals being considerably shorter than the hinder ones, enables them to ascend with much more ease than to descend; hence nothing but the severest weather can induce them to go down into the valleys.

The voice of the ibex is a short acute whistle, somewhat like that of the chamois, but of less



GOAT.

Engraved by James Cundick, London.



continuance. The female seldom produces more than one kid at a time; but towards this she exhibits the utmost maternal tenderness.

THE BLUE GOAT.

THIS animal seems to have derived its appellation from its colour, which is a fine blue, and shines with a gloss resembling that of velvet; but when dead it changes to a blueish grey. The belly is white, and beneath each eye is a large white mark: the tail is about seven inches long, with a brush of long hair at the end: the horns are turned backward, and three-fourths of the length, from the base, are ornamented with twenty-four rings; but the uppermost quarter is smooth, and tapers to a point. This animal is principally found in the hottest parts of Africa.

THE PIED GOAT.

THE pied goat is remarkable for having a white band running along each of its sides, crossed by two others, from the back to the belly; whence some writers have been induced to call it the harnessed antelope. On each side of the rump are three white lines, drawn in a downward direction. The colour of the body is a deep tawny, with white spots on the thighs. The horns are straight, recurved, and about nine

inches long. Large herds of these quadrupeds are frequently seen in the plains and woods of Senegal, and other parts of Africa.

THE WOOD GOAT.

THE wood goat is about thirty inches high; with long wreathed horns, inclining a little forward, and receding from each other towards the middle. The colour of the body is a dark brown, in some parts bordering on black. A narrow stripe of white hair extends from the neck along the back and tail; but is almost entirely concealed by the length of the dark brown hairs on the top of the back. On each cheek-bone are two large white spots, and several smaller ones are sprinkled over the haunches. The legs and feet are remarkably slender; and the tail, though very short, is covered with long hairs, which extend down the hinder part of the thighs. The nose and under lip are furnished with black whiskers.

These animals are sometimes hunted with dogs, and, during the chase, they are observed to lay their horns upon their neck, to prevent their being entangled in the bushes. When overtaken and precluded from escaping, they boldly place themselves in an attitude of defence, and frequently kill or gore some of the most spirited hounds before they are overcome.

THE COMMON ANTELOPE.

THE antelope, properly so called, is somewhat less than the fallow deer. Its horns, which are remarkable for a beautiful double flexion, are about fifteen inches long, and surrounded with prominent rings almost to the top, where they are about a foot distant from point to point. The general colour is brown, mingled with red; but the belly and inside of the thighs are white. It is a native of Barbary, and all the northern parts of Africa.

This beautiful animal is about two feet and a half high, and about three feet in length. The distance of its horns, at the base, is about one inch: from thence they gradually diverge to the distance of five inches, then turn inwards, and approach within about three inches of each other at the points: they are of a deep black, annulated about half way up from the base, smooth towards the top, and tapering to a sharp point.

The general colour of the back and sides is a light brown; the breast, belly, and inside of the limbs, are white, as is also the head, with the exception of a dark brown stripe, extending from each corner of the mouth to the base of the horns: a stripe of the same colour also runs from the shoulders to the haunches, forming a boundary between the snowy whiteness of the belly

Curious appearance of antelopes when pursued.

and the light brown of the sides: the buttocks are white, and a stripe of white, bounded on each side by one of dark brown, extends from the tail, half-way up the back; the tail is slender, the lower part not being much thicker than a goose-quill: the hair is in general fine and short, but the dark stripes consist of hair longer than the rest.

In the pursuit of these animals, it is equally curious and pleasant, to see the whole herd bounding over each other's heads to a considerable height. Some of them will take three or four high leaps successively. In this position they seem suspended in the air, looking over their shoulders and showing their beautiful white backs. They are so extremely swift, that few horses can overtake them.

The white antelope is an inhabitant of Africa; and herds of several thousands sometimes cover the plains in the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope.

THE SCYTHIAN ANTELOPE.

THE general form of this animal's body resembles that of the common goat; but the horns are those of an antelope: they are of a pale yellow colour, marked by very prominent rings, and about a foot in length. During winter, the male

Centinels—Extreme timidity.

is covered with long rough hair, like the he-goat; but the female is smooth and without horns. The general colour of the body is grey, mixed with yellow; but the belly is white. In a wild state they are never heard to exert their voice; but when brought up tame, the young emit a sort of bleating cry, like that of a lamb.

Towards the latter end of autumn great flocks of these animals, consisting of several thousands, migrate toward the South, and return in the spring, in smaller flocks, to the great northern deserts of Poland, Moldavia, Mount Caucasus, and Siberia.

It seldom happens that a whole flock lies down to rest all at the same time; some being always stationed on watch. When these are tired they give a kind of notice to such as have taken their rest, who instantly rise, and relieve the centinels of the preceding hours. By this means they often preserve themselves from the attacks of wolves, and the insidious stratagems of the hunters. They are so swift that they are able for some time to out-run the fleetest horse or greyhound; and their feet appear scarcely to touch the ground; yet such is their extreme timidity and shortness of breath, that they are very soon taken. If they are but bitten by a dog they instantly fall down, and will not again attempt to rise. In consequence of the heat of the sun, and the reflection of its rays from the sandy plains

Defect of sight in summer.

which they frequent, they become in summer almost blind, which is another cause of their destruction.

The females bring forth in May, but produce only one young at a time. Their flesh is sometimes eaten, but its taste is to most people very rank and disagreeable. The horns and skins are of considerable importance in a commercial view.



CHAP. IV.

"Lo, the poor Indian! whose untutor'd mind,
 Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind:
 His soul proud science never taught to stray
 Far as the solar walk, or milky way:
 Yet simple nature to his hope has given,
 Behind the cloud-topp'd hill, an humbler heav'n;
 Some safer world, in depth of woods embrac'd,
 Some happier island, in the wat'ry waste;
 Where slaves once more their native land behold;
 No fiends torment, no Christians thirst for gold:
 But thinks, admitted to that equal sky,
 His faithful *dog* shall bear him company."

POPE.

THE DOG.

"THE dog," says the Comte de Buffon, "independent of his beauty, strength, vivacity, and nimbleness, has all the interior qualities which can attract the regard of man. To his master he flies with alacrity, and submissively lays at his feet all his courage, strength, and talents; he seems to consult, interrogate, and supplicate for orders, which he is solicitous to execute; and a glance of the eye is sufficient, for he understands the smallest signs of his owner's will.

Without having, like man, the faculty of thought, he has all the ardour of sentiment, with fidelity and constancy in his affections; neither ambition, interest, nor desire of revenge can corrupt him, and he has no fear but that of displeasing. He is all zeal, ardour, and obedience. More inclined to remember benefits than injuries; he is not discouraged by blows or bad treatment, but calmly suffers, and soon forgets them. Instead of running away, or discovering marks of resentment, he exposes himself to torture, and licks the hand from which he received the blow: to the cruelty of his master he only opposes complaint, patience, and submission.

“ More docile and tractable than any other animal, the dog is not only soon instructed, but even conforms himself to the manners, movements, and habits of those who govern him. Always eager to obey his master or his friends, he pays no attention to strangers, and furiously repels beggars, whom he knows by their dress, voice, and gestures. When the charge of a house or garden is committed to him during the night, his boldness increases, and he sometimes becomes perfectly ferocious. He watches, goes his rounds, scents strangers at a distance, and, if they stop, or attempt to break in, he instantly darts upon them, and by barking, and other efforts of passion, he alarms the family.

“ Equally furious against thieves as against rapacious animals, he attacks and wounds them, and

Appearance and growth of the young.

forces from them whatever they have been attempting to carry off; but, contented with having conquered, he lies down upon the spoil, and will not touch it even to satisfy his appetite; exhibiting, at the same time, an example of courage, temperance, and fidelity."

These useful animals are found in a wild state in Congo, Lower Ethiopia, and towards the Cape of Good Hope; in South and North America, New Holland, and several other parts of the world. The female goes with young about sixty-three days, and commonly produces from four to ten at a litter. The young are usually brought forth blind; the eye-lids being firmly closed by a membrane, which is torn off as soon as the muscles of the upper eye-lids acquire sufficient strength for that purpose, and this is generally about the tenth or twelfth day. The young animals are at first clumsy and awkward in their appearance, and their whole figure seems imperfectly designed; but their growth is rapid, and they soon acquire the use of all their senses.

To enlarge on the description or particular qualities of an animal, so well known to every class of readers, would be unnecessary; and even to enumerate all the varieties of dogs, or the discriminating marks by which each breed is distinguished would be almost impossible. Instead, therefore, of dwelling on these subjects, I shall lay before the reader such well authenticated anecdotes of canine sagacity, attachment, and

perseverance, as may prove most interesting and amusive.

Plutarch informs us, that he was a spectator, at Rome of the wonderful docility of a dog, which belonged to a certain mimic, who at that time had the management of a farce, wherein there was great variety of parts, which he undertook to instruct the actors to perform, with several imitations proper for the matter and passions represented. Among the rest there was one who was to drink a sleepy potion, and, after he had drank it, to fall into a deadly drowsiness, and counterfeit the actions of a dying person. The dog, who had studied several of the other gestures and postures, more diligently observing this, took a piece of bread that was sopped in the potion, and after he had eaten it, in a short time counterfeited a trembling, then a staggering, and afterwards a drowsiness in his head. Then stretching himself, out he lay as if he had been dead, and seemed to offer himself to be dragged out of the place and carried to the burial, as the plot of the play required. Afterwards, understanding the time, from what was said and acted, in the first place, he began gently to stir, as if he were waking out of a profound sleep; then, to the amazement of the beholders, he rose up, and lifting up his head, he gazed about him; and then went to his master with all the signs of gladness and fawning kindness; insomuch that all

Instance of sagacity and attachment.

the spectators, and even Vespasian himself, were highly gratified with the sight.

The following instance of sagacity and attachment, is related in the *Monthly Magazine*, for April, 1802.

“ Those valleys, or glens, as they are called by the natives, which intersect the Grampian mountains, are chiefly inhabited by shepherds. The pastures over which each flock is permitted to range, extend many miles in every direction. The shepherd never has a view of his whole flock, at once, except when they are collected for the purpose of sale or shearing. His occupation is to make daily excursions to the different extremities of his pastures in succession; and to turn back, by means of his dog, any stragglers that may be approaching the boundaries of his neighbours. In one of these excursions, a shepherd happened to carry along with him one of his children, an infant about three years old. This is a usual practice among the Highlanders, who accustom their children from the earliest infancy to endure the rigors of the climate. “ After traversing his pasture for some time, attended by his dog, the shepherd found himself under the necessity of ascending a summit at some distance, to have a more extensive view of his range. As the ascent was too fatiguing for the child, he left him on a small plain at the bottom, with strict injunctions not to stir from it till his return. Scarcely, however, had he gained the summit,

when the horizon was suddenly darkened by one of those impenetrable mists, which frequently descend so rapidly amidst these mountains as, in the space of a few minutes, almost to turn day into night. The anxious father instantly hastened back to find his child; but, owing to the unusual darkness and his own trepidation, he unfortunately missed his way in the descent. After a fruitless search of many hours amongst the dangerous morasses and cataracts, with which these mountains abound, he was at length overtaken by night. Still wandering on without knowing whither, he at length came to the verge of the mist; and, by the light of the moon, discovered that he had reached the bottom of his valley, and was within a short distance of his cottage. To renew the search that night, was equally fruitless and dangerous. He was therefore obliged to return to his cottage, having lost both his child, and his dog, who had attended him faithfully for years.

Next morning by day-break, the shepherd, accompanied by a band of his neighbours, set out in search of his child; but, after a day spent in fruitless fatigue, he was at last compelled, by the approach of night, to descend from the mountain. On returning to his cottage, he found that the dog, which he had lost the day before, had been home, and, on receiving a piece of cake, had instantly gone off again. For several successive days the shepherd renewed the

The lost child discovered by a dog.

search for his child; and still, on returning at evening disappointed to his cottage, he found that the dog had been home, and, on receiving his usual allowance of cake, had instantly disappeared. Struck with this singular circumstance, he remained at home one day; and when the dog, as usual, departed with his piece of cake, he resolved to follow him, and find out the cause of his strange procedure. The dog led the way to a cataract, at some distance from the spot where the shepherd had left his child. The banks of the cataract, almost joined at the top, yet separated by an abyss of immense depth, presented that appearance which so often astonishes and appals the travellers who frequent the Grampian mountains; and indicates that these stupendous chasms were not the silent work of time, but the sudden effect of some violent convulsion of the earth. Down one of these rugged and almost perpendicular descents, the dog began, without hesitation, to make his way, and at last disappeared into a cave, the mouth of which was almost upon a level with the torrent. The shepherd with difficulty followed; but on entering the cave, what were his emotions, when he beheld his infant eating with much satisfaction the cake which the dog had just brought him; while the faithful animal stood by, eyeing his young charge with the utmost complacence!

From the situation in which the child was found, it appears that he had wandered to the

Marketing performed by a dog.

brink of the precipice, and then either fallen or scrambled down till he reached the cave; which the dread of the torrent had afterwards prevented him from quitting. The dog, by means of his scent, had traced him to the spot; and afterwards prevented him from starving by giving up to him his own daily allowance. He appears never to have quitted the child by night or day, except when it was necessary to go for its food; and then he was always seen running at full speed to and from the cottage."

Dogs may be taught to go to market with money, to repair to a known shop, and carry home provisions in safety. Some years since, a person residing at the turnpike-house about a mile from Stratford on Avon, had trained a dog to go to the town for any small articles of grocery, &c. that he wanted. A note, mentioning the things, was tied round the animal's neck, and in the same manner the articles were fastened; and in these errands the officious messenger always brought the commodities safely to his master.

Smellie, in his *Philosophy of Natural History*, relates that a grocer in Edinburgh had a dog, which for some time amused and astonished the people in the neighbourhood. A man who went through the streets ringing a bell and selling penny pies, happened one day to treat this dog with a pie. The next time he heard the pie-man's bell he ran impetuously toward him, seized him by the coat, and would not suffer him to pass.

A pieman and dog—A canine mendicant.

The pieman, who understood what the animal wanted, showed him a penny, and pointed to his master, who stood at the street-door and saw what was going on. The dog immediately supplicated his master by many humble gestures and looks; and on receiving a penny he instantly carried it in his mouth to the pieman, and received his pie. This traffic between the pieman and the grocer's dog continued to be daily practised for several months.

The following anecdote, extracted from Dibdin's *Observations in a Tour through England* is too interesting to be passed over in silence. "At a convent in France," says our author, "twenty paupers were served with a dinner at a certain hour every day. A dog belonging to the convent did not fail to be present at this regale, to receive the odds and ends which were now and then thrown down to him. The guests, however, were poor and hungry, and of course not very wasteful; so that their pensioner did little more than scent the feast of which he would fain have partaken. The portions were served by a person, at the ringing of a bell, and delivered out by means of what in religious houses is called a *tour*; which is a machine like the section of a cask, and, by turning round upon a pivot, exhibits whatever is placed on the concave side, without discovering the person who moves it. One day this dog, who had only received a few scraps, waited till the paupers were all gone,

took the rope in his mouth, and rang the bell. His stratagem succeeded. He repeated it the next day with the same good-fortune. At length the cook, finding that twenty-one portions were given out instead of twenty, was determined to discover the trick: in doing which he had no great difficulty; for lying *perdu*, and noticing the paupers as they came in great regularity for their different portions, and that there was no intruder except the dog, he began to suspect the real truth, which he was confirmed in when he saw him wait with great deliberation till the visitors were all gone, and then pull the bell. The matter was related to the community, and to reward him for his ingenuity, he was permitted to ring the bell every day for his dinner, when a mess of broken victuals was purposely served out to him."

In the winter of 1784, a dog was left by a smuggling vessel near Boomer, on the coast of Northumberland. Finding himself deserted, he began to worry the sheep; and did so much damage, that he soon became the terror of the country for a circuit of above twenty miles. We are informed, that when he caught a sheep, he bit a hole in its right side, and after eating the fat about the kidneys, left it. Several, thus lacerated, were found alive by the shepherds; and being properly attended to, some of them recovered and afterwards had lambs. From his delicacy in this respect, it may be readily supposed

Depredator on sheep—Nocturnal excursions.

that the destruction he made was immense; as the fat of one sheep a-day would hardly satisfy his hunger. The farmers, alarmed by his depredations, pursued him with hounds, greyhounds, &c. but, when the dogs came up to him, he lay down on his back, as if supplicating for mercy, and in that position they would not attempt to hurt him. He therefore used to lie quietly till the men approached; when he made off, without being followed by the hounds, till they were again excited to the pursuit, which always terminated unsuccessfully. He was one day pursued to a distance of upwards of thirty miles; but returned to the place whence he started, and killed sheep the same evening. His constant residence during the day, was upon a rock on the Heugh-hill, near Howick, where he had a view of four roads that approached it; and in March, 1785, after many fruitless attempts, he was at last shot there.

In the year 1796, a farmer, at a village near Southwick, in the county of Hants, had a small brown spaniel, which being used regularly to hunt with his master in the neighbouring manors, became so enamoured with the sport, that he frequently went from home in the night to course, if he could entice any of his companions to follow; and always returned with game in his mouth. This so disconcerted the master, for fear of offending the neighbouring gentry, that he ordered him ever after to be locked up early

A timely alarm—Guiding the blind.

in the evening. A few nights after this order, the servant accidentally left the door open for a few minutes, and the dog escaped to pursue his nightly perambulations. His absence was undiscovered by any of the family till about three o'clock in the morning, when a tremendous noise of the barking of dogs alarmed the farmer, who instantly jumped out of bed, reached his fire-arms, and came down stairs; when, to his great astonishment, he found all his ducks tied together by the legs, and writhing about on the ground. It seems, the spaniel, on returning from his night's diversion, leaped over the fence, and discovered a thief in the act of stealing poultry from the hen-house. He instantly laid down the dead game, and, by barking, alarmed the other dogs, and was thus the means of saving the yard from being robbed. The farmer fired at the villain, but without effect, as he had nearly cleared the premises when he entered the yard.

The care of the dog in directing the steps of the blind, is highly deserving of notice. There are few persons who have not seen some of these unfortunate objects thus guided through the winding streets of a town or city, to the spot where they are to supplicate charity of passengers. Mr. Ray, in his Synopsis of Quadrupeds, informs us of a blind beggar who was thus led through the streets of Rome by a middle-sized dog. This animal besides leading his master in such a manner as to protect him from all

danger, learned to distinguish both the streets and houses where he was accustomed to receive alms twice or thrice a week. Whenever he came to any of those streets, with which he was well acquainted, he would not leave it till a call had been made at every house where his master was usually successful in his petitions. When the mendicant began to ask alms, the dog lay down to rest; but the man was no sooner served or refused, than the dog rose spontaneously, and without either order or sign, proceeded to the other houses where the beggar generally received some gratuity. "I observed," says he, "not without pleasure and surprise, that when a halfpenny was thrown from a window, such was the sagacity and attention of this dog, that he went about in quest of it, took it from the ground with his mouth, and put into the blind man's hat. Even when bread was thrown down, the animal would not taste it, unless he received it from the hand of his master.

In the year 1760, while a waterman of Hammersmith was sleeping in his boat, the vessel broke from her moorings, and was carried by the tide, under a West-country barge. Fortunately for the man, his dog happened to be with him; and the sagacious animal awakened him by pawing his face, and pulling the collar of his coat, at the instant the boat was filling with water: he seized the opportunity, and thus saved himself from otherwise inevitable destruction.

Sagacity of a little house-dog.

In the year 1791, a person went to take lodgings in a house at Deptford, under pretence that he had just arrived from the West Indies; and, after having agreed on the terms, said he would send his trunk that night, and come himself the next day. About nine o'clock in the evening, the trunk was brought by two porters, and was carried into his bed-room. When the family were going to bed, the little house-dog, deserting his usual station in the shop, placed himself close to the chamber door where the chest was deposited, and kept up an incessant barking. The moment the door was opened, the dog flew to the chest, scratched against it, and barked with redoubled fury. They attempted to get the dog out of the room, but in vain. Calling in some neighbours, and making them eye-witnesses of the circumstance, they began to move the trunk about; when they quickly discovered that it contained something alive. Suspicion becoming very strong, they were induced to force it open; when, to their utter astonishment, they found in it their new lodger, who had been thus conveyed into the house with the design of robbing it.

For the following highly interesting anecdotes we are indebted to the ingenious Mr. Pratt:

“A French merchant, having some money due from a correspondent, set out on horseback, accompanied by his dog, on purpose to receive it. Having settled the business to his satisfaction, he tied the bag of money before him, and

began to return home. His faithful dog, as if he entered into his master's feelings, frisked round the horse, barked, and jumped, and seemed to participate his joy.

The merchant, after riding some miles, alighted to repose himself under an agreeable shade, and, taking the bag of money in his hand, laid it down by his side under a hedge, and, on remounting, forgot it. The dog perceived his lapse of recollection, and wishing to rectify it, ran to fetch the bag; but it was too heavy for him to drag along. He then ran to his master, and, by crying, barking, and howling, seemed to remind him of his mistake. The merchant understood not his language; but the assiduous creature persevered in its efforts, and, after trying to stop the horse in vain, at last began to bite his heels.

The merchant, absorbed in some reverie, wholly overlooked the real object of his affectionate attendant's importunity, but entertained the alarming apprehension that he was gone mad. Full of this suspicion, in crossing a brook, he turned back to look if the dog would drink. The animal was too intent on its master's business to think of itself; it continued to bark and bite with greater violence than before.

"Mercy!" cried the afflicted merchant, "it must be so; my poor dog is certainly mad: what must I do? I must kill him, lest some greater misfortune befall me; but with what regret! Oh, could I find any one to perform this cruel office

The merchant and his dog.

for me! but there is no time to lose; I myself may become the victim if I spare him."

"With these words, he drew a pistol from his pocket, and, with a trembling hand, took aim at his faithful servant. He turned away in agony as he fired, but his aim was too sure. The poor animal fell wounded; and, weltering in his blood, still endeavoured to crawl towards his master, as if to tax him with ingratitude. The merchant could not bear the sight; he spurred on his horse with a heart full of sorrow, and lamented he had taken a journey which had cost him so dear. Still, however, the money never entered his mind; he only thought of his poor dog, and tried to console himself with the reflection, that he had prevented a greater evil, by dispatching a mad animal, than he had suffered a calamity by his loss. This opiate to his wounded spirit, however, was ineffectual: "I am most unfortunate," said he to himself, "I had almost rather have lost my money than my dog." Saying this, he stretched out his hand to grasp his treasure. It was missing; no bag was to be found.—In an instant, he opened his eyes to his rashness and folly.—"Wretch that I am! I alone am to blame! I could not comprehend the admonition which my innocent and most faithful friend gave me, and I have sacrificed him for his zeal. He only wished to inform me of my mistake, and he has paid for his fidelity with his life."

"Instantly he turned his horse, and went off

The merchant and his dog.

at full gallop to the place where he had stopped. He saw, with half-averted eyes, the scene where the tragedy was acted; he perceived the traces of blood as he proceeded; he was oppressed and distracted; but in vain did he look for his dog—he was not to be seen on the road. At last he arrived at the spot where he had alighted. But what were his sensations! His heart was ready to bleed; he execrated himself in the madness of despair. The poor dog, unable to follow his dear, but cruel master, had determined to consecrate his last moments to his service. He had crawled, all bloody as he was, to the forgotten bag, and, in the agonies of death, he lay watching beside it. When he saw his master, he still testified his joy by the wagging of his tail—he could do no more—he tried to rise, but his strength was gone. The vital tide was ebbing fast; even the caresses of his master could not prolong his fate for a few moments. He stretched out his tongue, to lick the hand that was now fondling him in the agonies of regret, as if to seal forgiveness of the deed that had deprived him of life. He then cast a look of kindness on his master, and closed his eyes for ever.”

A few days before the overthrow of the dreadful Robespierre, a revolutionary tribunal, in one of the departments of the North, had condemned Monsieur R. an ancient magistrate, and a most estimable man, on pretence of finding him guilty of a conspiracy. This gentleman had a

Singular instance of fidelity.

water-spaniel, at that time about twelve years old, which had been brought up by him, and had scarcely ever quitted his side. Mons. R. was cast into prison: his family were dispersed by the system of terror; some had taken flight; others, like himself, were arrested and carried to distant gaols; his domestics were dismissed; his house was destroyed; his friends, from necessity or fear, abandoned him, to conceal themselves.—In the silence of a living tomb he was left to pine in thought, under the iron scourge of a tyrant, whose respite from blood, was but to gain by delay some additional horror: and who, if he extended life to those whom his wantonness had proscribed, even until death became a *prayer*, it was only to tantalize them with the *blessing* of murder, when he imagined he could more effectually torture them with the curse of existence.

This faithful dog was with him when he was first seized, but was refused admission into the prison: he was seen to return often to the door, but found it shut. He took refuge with a neighbour of his late master, who received him. But, (that posterity may judge clearly of the times in which Frenchmen existed at that period,) it must be added, that this man received the poor dog tremblingly, and in secret, lest his humanity for his *friend's dog* should bring him to the scaffold. Every day, at the same hour, the animal returned to the door of the prison, but was still refused admittance. He, however, uniformly passed

some time there. Such unremitting fidelity, at last won even the porter of the prison, and the dog was at length allowed to enter. His joy at seeing his master was unbounded; his master's was not less; it was difficult to separate them: but the honest gaoler, fearing for himself, carried the dog out of the prison, and he returned to his place of retreat. The next morning, however, he again came back, and repeated his visit for some weeks; and once on each day was regularly admitted by the humane gaoler. The poor animal licked the hand of his master, looked at him again, again licked his hand, and after a few mornings, feeling assured of re-admission, departed at the call of the gaoler. When the day of receiving sentence arrived, notwithstanding the guards, which jealous power, conscious of its deserts, stations around, the dog penetrated into the hall, and couched himself between the legs of the unhappy man, whom he was about to lose for ever. The judges condemned his master; "and may my tears be pardoned," says the benevolent recorder of this fact, "for the burst of indignation—the judges condemned him to a speedy death, in *the presence of his dog!*" Mons. R. was re-conducted to the prison; and the dog, though prevented from accompanying him, did not quit the door for the whole of that night.

The fatal hour of execution arrives with the morning; the prison opens, the unfortunate man passes out; his dog receives him at the threshold!

Execution of Mons. R.—Attachment of his dog.

His faithful dog *alone*, amongst the thousands that revered and loved him, *dared*, even under the eye of the tyrant, to own a dying friend! He clings to his hand undaunted. “Alas! that hand will never more be spread upon thy caressing head, poor dog!” exclaimed the condemned.—The axe falls!—the master dies! but the tender adherent cannot leave the body: he walks round the corse; the earth receives it, and the mourner spreads himself on the grave. On that cold pillow he passed the first night, the next day, and the second night: the neighbour, meantime, unhappy at not seeing his *protégé*, searches for him; and guessing the asylum he had chosen, steals forth by night, and finding him as described, caresses and brings him back. The good man tries every gentle way, that kindness could devise, to make him eat, But a short time afterwards, the dog, escaping, regained his favourite place. O man, give faith to a sacred truth! Three months passed away; during every morning of which the mourner returned to his loving protector, merely to receive his food, and then retired to the ashes of his dead master: and each day he was more sad, more meagre, and more languishing.

His protector, at length, endeavoured to wean him. He first tied, then chained him; but what manacle is there that can ultimately triumph over nature? He broke, or bit through his bonds; again escaped;—again returned to the grave,

The disgraced favourite.

and *never* quitted it more ! It was in vain that all kind means were used once more to bring him back. Even the humane gaoler assisted to take him food, but he would eat no longer: for four and twenty hours he was absolutely observed to employ---(O force of genuine love!)---his weakened limbs, digging up the earth that separated him from the being he had served. Affection gave him strength, but his efforts were too vehement for his power: his whole frame became convulsed; he shrieked in his struggles; his attached and generous heart gave way, and he breathed his last gasp with his last look at the grave, as if he knew he had found, and again should be permitted to associate with his master."

"A favourite dog, belonging to an English nobleman, had fallen into disgrace, from an incorrigible habit of annoying the flocks of the neighbouring farmers. One of these having, in vain, driven the depredator from his premises, came at length to the offender's master, with a dead lamb under his arm, the victim of the last night's plunder. The nobleman being extremely angry at the dog's transgression, rang the bell for his servant, and ordered him to be immediately hanged, or some other way disposed of, so that, on his return from a journey he was about to undertake, he might never see him again. He then left the apartment, and the fate of the dog was for a few hours suspended. The interval, though short, was not thrown away. The condemned

animal was sufficiently an adept in the tones of his master's voice, to believe there was any hope left for a reversion of his sentence. He therefore adopted the only alternative between life and death, by making his escape. In the course of the evening, while the same servant was waiting at table, his lordship demanded if his order had been obeyed respecting the dog? "After an hour's search, he is no where to be found, my lord," replied the servant. The general conclusion for some days was, that the dog, conscious of being in disgrace, had concealed himself in the house of a tenant, or some other person who knew him. A month, however, passed without any thing being heard respecting him; it was therefore thought he had fallen into the hands of his late accuser, the farmer, and had suffered for his transgressions.

"About a year after, while his lordship was journeying into Scotland, attended only by one servant, a severe storm drove him to take shelter under a hovel belonging to a public house, situated at some distance from the road, upon a heath. The tempest threatening rather to increase than abate, the night coming on, and no house suitable to the accommodation of such a guest; his lordship was at length induced to dismount, and go into the little inn adjoining the shed. On his entrance, an air of surprise and consternation marked the features and conduct of both the innholder and his wife. Confused

An unexpected meeting.

and incoherent answers were made to common questions; and soon after, a whispering took place between the two aforementioned persons. At length, however, the guest was shown into a small parlour: a faggot was thrown on the fire, and such refreshments as the house afforded, were preparing; there being no appearance of more favourable weather allowing them to depart.

“As the servant-maid was spreading the cloth, a visible tremor shook her frame, so that it was not without difficulty she performed her office. His lordship noticed a certain strangeness of the whole group, but remembering to have heard his servant mention the words, ‘my lord,’ as he alighted from his horse, he naturally imputed this to their having unexpectedly a guest in their house above the rank of those whom they were accustomed to entertain. The awkwardness of intended respect in such cases, and from such persons, will often produce these embarrassments. His lordship having now made up his mind to remain that night, supper was served; when a most unexpected visitor made his appearance. ‘Good heavens!’ exclaimed his lordship, ‘is it possible I should find my poor dog alive, and in this place?—How wonderful!—How welcome!’ He stretched out his hand to caress his long lost favourite; but the dog, after looking earnestly at his ancient master, shrunk from him, and kept aloof, and took the first opportunity of the door

Suspicious appearances.

being opened to leave the room; but still took his station on the other side of the door, as if watching some expected event.

Of the history of this animal, from the time of his elopement, little more resulted from enquiry, than that he had one day followed some drovers who came to refresh themselves and their cattle: and that, appearing to be foot-sore with travel, and unable to proceed with his companions, he staid in the house, and had remained there ever since. This account was obtained from the hostler, who added, he was as harmless a creature as any betwixt Scotland and Ireland.

His lordship, intending to rise early in the morning, to make up the time thus sacrificed to the night, which was still stormy, ordered the servant to show him to his chamber. As he passed the common room which communicated with the parlour, he noticed the innkeeper and his wife in earnest discourse with three men, muffled up in horseman's coats, who seemed to have just come from buffeting the tempest, and not a little anxious to counteract its effects; for both the landlord and his wife were filling their glasses with spirits. His lordship, on going to his chamber, after the maid and his own servant, heard a fierce growl, as from the top of the stairs. 'Here is the dog again, my lord,' exclaimed the servant. 'He is often cross and churlish to strangers,' observed the maid, 'yet he never bites.' As they came nearer the door, his growl

increased to a furious bark; but upon the maid's speaking to him sharply, he suffered her to enter the chamber, and the servant stepped back to hold the light to his lord. On his old master's advancing towards the chamber, the dog drew back, and stood with a determined air of opposition, as if to guard the entrance. His lordship then called the dog by his name, and on repeating some terms of fondness, which, in past times, he had familiarly been accustomed to, he licked the hand from whose endearments he had so long been estranged.

“ But he still held firm to his purpose, and endeavoured to oppose his master's passing to the chamber. Yet the servant was suffered, without further disputing the point, to go out; not, however, without another growl, though one rather of anger than of resistance, and which accompanied her with increased fierceness all the way down stairs, which she descended with the same strange kind of hurry and confusion that had marked her behaviour ever since his lordship's arrival. His lordship was prevented from dwelling long on this circumstance, by an attention to the dog, who, without being solicited farther, went a few paces from the threshold of the door, at which he kept guard: and, after caressing his lordship, and using every gentle art of affectionate persuasion, (speech alone excepted) went down one of the stairs, as if to persuade his master to accompany him. His lordship had his

Solicitude of the recovered dog.

foot upon the threshold, when the dog caught the skirt of his coat between his teeth, and tugged it with great violence, yet with every token of love and terror; for he now appeared to partake the general confusion of the family. The poor animal again renewed his fondling, rubbed his face softly along his master's side, sought the patting hand, raised his soliciting feet, and during these endearing ways he whined and trembled to a degree, that could not escape the attention both of the master and the servant.

“ ‘ Were I apt to credit omens,’ said his lordship, ‘ I should suspect from a connection betwixt the deportment of the people of this inn, and the unaccountable solicitude of the dog, that there is something wrong about this house.’---‘ I have long been of the same opinion,’ observed the servant, ‘ and wish, your honour, we had been wet to the skin in proceeding, rather than to have stopped here.’

“ ‘ It is too late to talk of wishes,’ rejoined his lordship, ‘ neither can we set off now, were I disposed; for the hurricane is more furious than ever. Let us therefore, make the best of it. In what part of the house do you sleep?’---‘ Close at the head of your lordship’s bed,’ answered the domestic, ‘ in a little closet, slippside of a room by the stairs; there my lord,’ added the servant, pointing to a small door on the right.

“ ‘ Then go to bed; we are not wholly without the means of defence, you know; and whichever

of us shall be first alarmed, may apprise the other. At the same time, all this may be nothing more than the work of our own fancies.'

"The anxiety of the dog, during this conversation, cannot be expressed. On the servant's leaving the room, the dog ran hastily to the door, as if in hopes his lordship would follow; and looked as if to entice him so to do. Upon his lordship's advancing a few steps, the vigilant creature leaped up with every sign of satisfaction; but when he found those steps were directed only to close the door, his dejection was depicted in a manner no less lively than had been his joy.

"It was scarcely possible not to be impressed by these unaccountable circumstances; yet his lordship was almost ashamed of yielding to them, and finding all quiet, both above and below, except the noise of the wind and rain; and finding that no caresses could draw the dog from the part of the room he had chosen, his lordship made a bed for the poor fellow with one of the mats, and then sought repose himself. Neither the dog, however, nor the master, could rest. The former rose often, and paced about the room: sometimes he came close to the bed curtains, and sometimes whined piteously, although the hand of reconciliation was put forth to soothe him. In the course of an hour after this, his lordship, wearied with conjecture, fell asleep; but he was soon aroused by his four-footed friend, whom he

A nocturnal alarm.

heard scratching violently at the closet door; an action which was accompanied by the gnashing of the dog's teeth, intermixed with the most furious growlings. His lordship, who had laid himself down in his clothes, and literally resting on his arms—his brace of pistols being under his pillow---now sprung from the bed. The rain had ceased, and the wind abated, from which circumstances he hoped to hear better what was passing. But nothing, for an instant, appeased the rage of the dog; who, finding his paws unable to force a passage into the closet, put his teeth to a small aperture at the bottom, and attempted to gnaw away the obstruction. There could be no longer a doubt that the cause of the mischief, or danger, whatsoever it might be, lay in that closet. Yet there appeared some risk in opening it; more particularly when, on trying to force the lock, it was found to be secured by some fastening on the inside. A knocking was now heard at the chamber door, through the key-hole of which a voice exclaimed, 'For God's sake, my lord, let me in.' His lordship, knowing this to proceed from his servant, advanced armed, and admitted him. 'All seems quiet, my lord, below stairs and above,' said the man, 'for I have never closed my eyes. For heaven's sake! what can be the matter with the dog, to occasion such a dismal barking?' 'That I am resolved to know,' answered his lordship, furiously pushing the closet-door. No sooner was it burst open,

than the dog, with inconceivable rapidity, rushed in, and was followed both by the master and man. The candle had gone out in the bustle, and the extreme darkness of the night prevented them from seeing any object whatever. But a hustling sort of noise was heard at the farther end of the closet. His lordship then fired one of his pistols at random, by way of alarm. A piercing cry, ending in a loud groan, immediately came from the dog.---‘Great God!’ exclaimed his lordship, ‘I have surely destroyed my defender.’ He ran out for a light, and snatched a candle from the innholder, who came in apparent consternation, as to enquire into the alarm of the family. Others of the house now entered the room; but, without paying attention to their questions, his lordship ran towards the closet to look for his dog. ‘The door is open! the door is open! ejaculated the publican;---then all is over!’---As his lordship was re-entering the closet, he was met by his servant, who, with every mark of almost speechless consternation in his voice and countenance, exclaimed, ‘O, my lord! my lord! I have seen such shocking sights!’ and, without being able to finish his sentence, he sunk on the floor. Before his master could explore the cause of this, or succeed in raising up his fallen domestic, the poor dog came limping from the closet, while a blood-track marked his path. He gained, with great difficulty, the place where his lordship stood

Mysterious appearances.

aghast, and fell at his master's feet. Every demonstration of grief ensued; but the dog unmindful of his wounds, kept his eyes still intent upon the closet door; and denoted that the whole of the mystery was not yet developed.

“Seizing the other pistol from the servant, who had fallen into a swoon, his lordship now re-entered the closet. The wounded dog crawled after him; when, on examining every part, he perceived, in one corner, an opening into the inn yard, by a kind of trap-door, to which some broken steps descended. The dog seated himself on the steps; but there was nothing to be seen but a common sack. Nor was any thing visible upon the floor, except some drops of blood, part of which were evidently those which had issued from the wound of the dog himself, and part must have been of long standing, as they were dried into the boards. His lordship went back into the bed-chamber, but the dog remained in the closet. On his return the dog met him, breathing hard, as if from violent exercise, and followed his master into the chamber.

“The state of the man-servant, upon whom fear had operated so as to continue him in a succession of swoons, now claimed his lordship's attentions, and while those were administered, the dog again left the chamber. A short time after this, he was heard to bark aloud, then cry; accompanied by a noise, as if something heavy was drawn along the floor. On going once more

A horrid discovery.

into the closet, his lordship found the dog trying to bring forward the sack which had been seen lying on the steps near the trap-door. The animal renewed his exertions at the sight of his master; but, again exhausted both by labour and loss of blood, he rested his head and his feet on the mouth of the sack.

“ Excited by this new mystery, his lordship now assisted the poor animal in his labour, and, though that labour was not light, curiosity, and the apprehension of discovering something extraordinary, on the part of his lordship, and unabating perseverance on that of the dog, to accomplish his purpose, gave them strength to bring at length the sack from the closet to the chamber. The servant was somewhat restored to himself, as the sack was dragged into the room, but every person, who in the beginning of the alarm had rushed into the apartment, had now disappeared.

“ As his lordship loosened the cord which fastened the sack’s mouth, the dog fixed his eyes on it, and stood over it with wild and trembling eagerness, as if ready to seize and devour the contents.

“ The contents appeared, and the extreme of horror was displayed. A human body, as if murdered in bed, being covered only with a bloody shirt, and that clotted, and still damp, as if recently shed; the head severed from the shoulders, and the other members mangled and sepa-

rated; so as to make the trunk and extremities lie in the sack, was now exposed to view.

“ The dog smelt the blood, and after surveying the corpse, looked piteously at his master, and licked his hand, as if grateful that the mysterious murder was discovered.

“ It was afterwards proved, that a traveller had really been murdered two nights before his lordship's arrival at that haunt of infamy; and that the offence was committed in the very chamber, and probably in the very bed, wherein his lordship had slept; and which, but for the warnings of his faithful friend, must have been fatal to himself.

“ The maid-servant was an accomplice in the guilt; and the ruffian travellers, who were confederating with the innholder and his wife, were the murderers of the remains that had been just emptied from the sack, and which were to have been buried that night in a pit, dug in an adjacent field belonging to the innholder; whose intention it likewise was to have murdered the nobleman. The innkeeper and his wife were taken up, and punished according to their deserts; and the nobleman was so affected at his miraculous escape, that he bound up the wounds of his faithful dog with the greatest care, and the balms of love and friendship were infused. The master's hour of contrition was now come: he was sorry he had ever neglected so invaluable a friend; and as the only peace-offering in his power, departed with

this faithful companion from the house of blood, to that mansion he had formerly left in disgrace; where the caresses of a grateful family, and an uninterrupted state of tranquillity, with every indulgence they could bestow, were regularly continued as long as he lived."

The following extraordinary story is related in the Travels of Nicolai Karamsin, from Moscow through Russia, Germany, Switzerland, France, and England.

"In the reign of Charles the Fifth, the Chevalier de Mayeux, in the sight of all Paris, fought with a dog---but a dog who might have served as a pattern to many men. The spot, which was the scene of this singular rencounter, is still shown. The following circumstance gave rise to it: Aubry de Montidier, while taking a solitary walk in the neighbourhood of Paris, was murdered and buried under a tree; his dog, which he had left at home, went out at night to search for his master, and discovered his grave in the forest: having remained some days on the spot, his hunger compelled him to return to the city. He hastened to the Chevalier Ardilliers, a friend of the deceased, and by his melancholy howling, gave him to understand that their common friend was no longer in existence. Ardilliers offered the dog food, and endeavoured to quiet him by caresses; but the distressed animal continued to howl, licked his feet, and laying hold of his coat, pulled him towards the door,

A murderer discovered by a dog.

Ardilliers, at length, resolved to follow him; the dog led him from street to street, and conducted him from the city to a large oak in the forest, where he began to howl louder, and scratch the earth with his feet. Aubry's friend surveyed the spot with melancholy foreboding, and ordered his servant to dig up the earth; in a little time he discovered the body of his friend. Some time after, the dog accidentally met the murderer of his master; he rushed upon him, barked, and attacked him with so much fury, that the spectators could with difficulty extricate him. The same circumstance occurred several times. The faithful animal, which in general was as quiet as a lamb, became like a raging tiger, every time he saw this person. This circumstance excited great astonishment, and some suspicions having arisen, it was remembered, that Maquer, on several occasions had betrayed symptoms of enmity to Aubry; and various other circumstances being combined, brought the matter almost to a certainty. The king, hearing of the affair, was desirous of being convinced with his own eyes, whether the dog was in the right; and that the animal which fawned upon every body else, attacked Maquer as soon as he perceived him. At that period it was customary, when the evidence was not decisive, to determine the fate of the accused by single combat. A time and place was therefore appointed: the chevalier entered the list, armed with a lance; the dog was

Single combat between a dog and an assassin.

let loose upon him; and a most dreadful contest took place. The chevalier made a thrust, but the dog springing aside, seized him by the throat, and threw him down. The villain now confessed his crime, and the king, that the remembrance of the faithful animal might be transmitted to posterity, caused to be erected to him, in the forest where the murder was committed, a marble monument, with the following inscription: "Blush, hard-hearted wretch! an irrational animal knows and loves gratitude; and thou perpetrator of crimes, in the moment of guilt, be afraid of thine own shadow."

"In the county of Ulster, in the neighbourhood of Pennsylvania," says an American planter, in his Letters on Cultivation, "lived a man, whose name was Le Fevre; he was the grandson of a Frenchman, who was obliged to fly his country at the revocation of the edict of Nantes. He might well have been called the *last* of mankind, for he possessed a plantation on the very verge of the valley towards the Blue Mountains, a place of refuge for animals of the deer kind.

This man, having a family of eleven children, was greatly alarmed one morning at missing the youngest, who was about four years of age; he disappeared about ten o'clock. The distressed family sought after him in the river, and in the fields, but to no purpose. Terrified to an extreme degree, they united with their neighbours

in quest of him. They entered the woods, which they beat over with the most scrupulous attention. A thousand times they called him by name, and were answered only by the echoes of the wilds. They then assembled themselves at the foot of the Mountain of Chatagniers, or chesnut-trees, without being able to bring the least intelligence of the child. After reposing themselves for some minutes, they formed into different bands--and night coming on, the parents in despair refused to return home; for their terror was constantly increased by the knowledge they had of the mountain cats, animals so rapacious, that the inhabitants cannot always defend themselves against their attack. Then they painted to their imagination the horrid idea of a wolf, or some other dreadful animal, devouring their darling child.--“Derick, my poor little Derick! where art thou?” frequently exclaimed the mother, in the most poignant language; but all was of no avail. As soon as day-light appeared, they renewed their search, but as unsuccessfully as the preceding day. Fortunately, however, an Indian, laden with furs, coming from an adjacent village, called at the house of Le Fevre, intending to repose himself there as he usually did on his travelling through that part of the country. He was much surprised to find no one at home but an old negress, kept there by her infirmities. ‘Where is my brother?’ said the Indian. ‘Alas!’ replied the negro woman,

The Indian and his dog,

‘ he has lost his little Derick, and all the neighbourhood are employed in looking after him in the woods.’ It was then three o’clock in the afternoon: ‘ Sound the horn,’ said the Indian, ‘ and try and call thy master home ; I will find his child.’ The horn was sounded ; and as soon as the father returned, the Indian asked him for the shoes and stockings that little Derick had worn last. He then ordered his dog, which he brought with him, to smell them ; and then, taking the house for his centre, he described a circle of a quarter of a mile, semi-diameter ; ordering his dog to smell the earth wherever he led him. The circle was not completed, when the sagacious animal began to bark. This sound brought some feeble ray of hope to the disconsolate parents. The dog followed the scent, and barked again ; the party pursued him with all their speed, but soon lost sight of him in the woods. Half an hour afterwards they heard him again, and soon saw him return. The countenance of the poor animal was visibly altered ; an air of joy seemed to animate him, and his gestures indicated that his search had not been in vain. ‘ I am sure he has found the child !’ exclaimed the Indian. But whether dead or alive was at present the cruel subject of doubt. The Indian then followed his dog, who led him to the foot of a large tree, where lay the child in an enfeebled state, nearly approaching death. He took it tenderly in his

The Indian and his dog.

arms, and hastily carried it to the disconsolate parents.

“ Happily, the father and mother were in some measure prepared to receive their child, but their joy was so great that it was more than a quarter of an hour before they could express their gratitude to the kind restorer of their child. Words cannot express the affecting scene. After they had bathed the face of the child with their tears, they threw themselves on the neck of the Indian, whose heart in unison melted with theirs. Their gratitude was then extended to the dog: they caressed him with inexpressible delight, as the animal, who, by means of his sagacity, had found their beloved offspring; and conceiving that, like the rest of the group, he must now stand in need of refreshment, a plentiful repast was prepared for him, after which he and his master pursued their journey; and the company, mutually pleased at the happy event, returned to their respective habitations, highly delighted with the kind Indian and his wonderful dog.”

The following instance of the fidelity of a dog, is related by Mons. Huet, formerly bishop of Avranches:---

“ In a village, situated between Caen and Vine, on the borders of the district called the Grove, resided a peasant of a surly, untoward temper, who frequently abused his wife, insomuch that the neighbours were sometimes obliged, by her

outcries, to interpose, in order to prevent further mischief. Being at length weary of living always with one whom he hated, he resolved to make away with her. But he pretended to be reconciled, altered his conduct, and, on holidays, invited her to walk out with him into the fields, for recreation. One evening, after a very hot day, he carried her to cool and repose herself on the border of a spring, in a very shady and solitary place. The clearness of the water tempted him to drink; and as he pretended to be very thirsty, he laid himself down on his belly, and swilled large draughts of it, highly commending its sweetness and advising his wife to refresh herself in like manner. She believed him, and complied. As soon as he saw her in that posture, he threw himself upon her, and plunged her head into the water, in order to drown her. She struggled hard, but could not have saved herself, had it not been for the assistance of a dog, who was very fond of her, and never left her company. He immediately flew upon the husband, seized him by the throat, compelled him to relinquish his hold, and thus saved the life of his mistress."

"In the severe winter of 1793, a hairdresser at Hanover went out of the city gate, in the dusk of the evening, with one of his friends, who had some business at a neighbouring village, in order to show him the road, the ground being then covered with snow. They were scarcely arrived

Remarkable preservation.

in the open country, when a dog came running towards them, and, by his whining and piteous gestures, seemed anxious to gain their attention. On their noticing him, the animal ran back a little part of the way, then returned, and, by his actions, indicated his desire that they should follow him. Struck by the expressive countenance of the dog, they agreed to follow him, and turned towards the road whence he came. They had not gone many yards, before the dog, by his frisking about, and repeated gambols, appeared to express great joy at this circumstance. He then continued running a little way before them, and at times returning to point out the road. At length the dog suddenly stopped, when, on examining the place, they discovered the body of a man, apparently frozen to death, around whom the poor animal went moaning most piteously. They conveyed the body to a neighbouring village, where, by proper care, suspended animation was restored, and the dog was thus providentially the means of preserving his master's life."

A gentleman who lived near Aberdeen, was walking across the river Dee, when it was frozen; the ice gave way in the middle of the river, and down he sunk; however, he kept himself from being carried away in the current by grasping his gun, which had fallen athwart the opening. A dog, who attended him, after many fruitless attempts to rescue his master, ran to a neighbouring village, and took hold of the coat

of the first person he met. The man, alarmed, would have disengaged himself; but the dog regarded him with a look so kind and significant, and endeavoured to pull him along with so gentle a violence, that he began to think there might be something extraordinary in the case, and suffered himself to be conducted by the animal, who brought him to his master, in time to save his life.

Mr. Bartram informs us, that, in one part of his journey through North America, he observed, on an extensive lawn, a troop of horses that were feeding, and under the controul only of a single black dog, similar, in every respect to the wolf of Florida, except that he was able to bark like a common dog. He was very careful and industrious in keeping together his charge; and if, any one strolled from the rest to too great a distance, the dog would spring up, head the horse, and bring him back to the company. The proprietor of these horses was an Indian, who lived about ten miles from this place; who, from a whim, and for the sake of experiment, had trained his dog to this business from a puppy. He followed his master's horses only, keeping them in a separate company where they ranged; and when he found himself hungry, or wanted to see his master, in the evening he returned to the town where he lived, but never stayed from home at night.

In South America great numbers of dogs breed

Flesh of the dog sometimes eaten.

in holes like rabbits. When found young, they instantly attach themselves to mankind, and never desert their masters to rejoin the society of their former companions. These animals have the appearance of the greyhound, carry their ears erect, and are said to be excellent in the chase.

Some nations admire the flesh of the dog as an article of food. In some of the South Sea islands, dogs are fattened with vegetables, which the natives cram down their throats when they will voluntarily eat no more. They are killed by strangling; and the extravasated blood is preserved in cocoa-nut shells, and baked for the table. The negroes on the coast of Guinea are extremely partial to this food; and Hippocrates, and even the Romans considered young whelps as a great delicacy.

THE SIBERIAN DOG.

THIS animal, which is found in most of the climates about the Arctic Circle, is used in Kamtschatka for drawing sledges over the frozen snow. The number of dogs usually employed is five: four of which are yoked two and two, and the other acts as leader. The reins are fastened to the collar; and the driver has to depend principally on their obedience to his voice. Great care and attention are consequently necessary in

training the leader; which, if he be steady and docile, becomes very valuable, the sum of forty rubles, or ten pounds, being frequently given for one of them.

The driver carries in his hand a crooked stick, which answers the purpose both of whip and reins. Iron-rings are suspended at one end of this stick, by way of ornament, and to encourage the animals by their noise, for they are frequently jingled for that purpose. If the dogs be properly trained, it is not necessary for the rider to exercise his voice: if he strike the ice with his stick, they will turn to the left; if he strike the legs of the sledge they will go to the right; and when he wishes them to stop, he has only to place the stick between the snow and the front of the sledge. When they are inattentive to their duty, the charioteer usually chastises them, by throwing this stick at them; and his dexterity in picking it up again is the most difficult manœuvre in this exercise. It is not, however, surprising that they should be skilful in a practice in which they are so materially interested; for the moment the dogs find that the driver has lost his stick, unless the leader be both steady and resolute, they set off at full speed, and never stop till their strength is completely exhausted, or till the carriage is overturned and dashed to pieces, or hurried down a precipice, when all are buried in the snow.

The manner in which these animals are gene-

Accidents prevented by Newfoundland dogs.

cried out with pain, and, being utterly unable to exert himself, was about to sink, when his faithful dog, who had watched him with the greatest degree of anxiety and agitation, rushed forward, and cautiously seizing his arm, rescued him from his perilous situation.

In the summer of 1792, a gentleman went to Portsmouth for the benefit of sea-bathing. He was conducted in one of the machines into the water; but being unacquainted with the steepness of the shore, and no swimmer, he found himself, the instant he quitted the machine, nearly out of his depth. The state of alarm into which he was thrown, increased his danger; and, unnoticed by the person who attended the machine, he would inevitably have been drowned, had not a large Newfoundland dog, which was standing on the shore and observed his distress, plunged in to his assistance. The animal seized him by the hair, and conducted him safely to the shore; but it was some time before he recovered. The gentleman afterwards purchased the dog at a high price; and preserved him as a treasure of equal value with his whole fortune.

During a severe storm, in the winter of 1789, a ship belonging to Newcastle was lost near Yarmouth; and a Newfoundland dog alone escaped to shore, bringing in his mouth the captain's pocket-book. He landed amidst a number of people, several of whom in vain attempted to take from him his prize. The sagacious animal,

as if sensible of the importance of the charge, which, in all probability, was delivered to him by his perishing master, at length leaped fawningly against the breast of a man who had attracted his notice among the crowd, and delivered the book to him. He then returned to the place where he had landed; and watched with great attention for all the things that came from the wrecked vessel, seizing them, and endeavoring to bring them to land.

In the month of December 1803, as a gentleman was going along the path that leads from Kennington Common to Camberwell, and which stands between two ditches, he observed several children playing at a distance, and almost at the same instant perceived one of them fall into the ditch; he hastened to the spot, accompanied by a very large Newfoundland dog he had with him; the sagacious animal no sooner perceived the child struggling in the water, than he plunged in, and seizing her by the hair of her head, brought her with some difficulty to the side of the foot-path, when, with the assistance of his master, she was hoisted upon *terra firma*, without sustaining any other injury than a violent retching, occasioned by the stagnant water she had swallowed, and which was of so foul a nature, that it would have caused almost immediate suffocation. The gentleman saw the child safe home to its parents, who lived near at hand, and gave them a proper caution against sending their

A canine guardian.

children out from home in so dangerous a situation.

Early in the year 1804, a medical gentleman, who was returning from the theatre, seeing a crowd about St. Martin's watch-house, ventured in, to see what was passing there: he found that some gentlemen, who had been sacrificing to Bacchus, had got into a riot, and recognised among them the face of an old friend, whom he had not seen for some years: the latter requested his card, which the medical gentleman gave him from his pocket-book. This pocket-book contained bank-notes to the amount of five hundred pounds, which he had been so incautious as to carry with him to the theatre. On leaving the watch-house, two men followed him. He had scarcely left the steps, before he felt something touch his hand, and, on looking round, discovered a large Newfoundland dog, which immediately leaped on him, and continued to follow him. On reaching Grosvenor-square, the two men attacked him, and seizing him by the collar, demanded his pocket-book. The dog instantly flew at them both, one of whom he severely bit by the leg, and they both made their escape. The faithful guardian then attended the gentleman to his house in Park-Lane, and waited at the door till the servant opened it. The gentleman endeavoured to coax the animal in, but without avail; he refused all their entreaties to enter, and they were compelled to shut the door.

Extraordinary exertion.

On opening it a few minutes after, they found he had taken his departure.

Mr. Bewick relates, in his interesting History of Quadrupeds, that a gentleman, walking by the side of the River Tyne, observed, on the opposite side, that a child had fallen into the water: he pointed out the object to his dog, which immediately jumped in, swam over, and, catching hold of the child with his mouth, landed it safely on the shore.

THE HOUND.

THE following anecdote, related by Mr. Bewick, affords a striking proof of the spirit of the hound, in supporting a continuance of exertion.

“Many years since, a very large stag was turned out of Whinfield Park, in the county of Westmoreland; and was pursued by the hounds, till, by fatigue or accident, the whole pack was thrown out, except two staunch and favourite dogs, which continued the chase the greatest part of the day. The stag returned to the park whence he set out; and, as his last effort, leaped the wall, and expired as soon as he had accomplished it. One of the hounds pursued him to the wall: but being unable to get over, lay down, and almost immediately expired: the other was also found dead at a little distance.

“The length of the chase is uncertain: but,

Detection of an assassin.

as they were seen at Red-kirks, near Annan, in Scotland, distant, by the post-road, about forty-six miles; it is conjectured that the circuitous and uneven course they might be supposed to take, could not be less than one hundred and twenty miles!

“To commemorate this fact, the horns of the stag, which were the largest ever seen in that part of the country, were placed on a tree of enormous size in the park, afterwards called Hart-horn tree. But they have been since removed; and are now at Julian's bower, in the same county.”

In the early ages of history, we are informed that Lodbroc, king of Denmark, was murdered by one Bern, a falconer to king Edward, who slew and buried him privately. This murder was afterwards discovered by a hound that Lodbroc kept, who would not forsake his master's body, but when compelled by the extremity of hunger, and then but just to satisfy his present wants; fawning upon the king and courtiers, as often as compelled to visit them. Being known for Lodbroc's dog, he was observed and followed, till he had directed them to his master's body; and, by his fierce behaviour towards Bern, and other circumstances, Bern was discovered to be the murderer, and condemned, as a punishment for his crime, to be put to sea in a boat, without oars or sails, and left to the mercy of the elements.

Blood-hounds formerly of great utility.

THE BLOOD HOUND.

THIS animal was formerly held in great repute; and, on account of the peculiar fineness of his scent, he was frequently employed in recovering wounded game that had escaped from the hunter. He would follow, with great certainty, the footsteps of a man to a considerable distance; and, in barbarous and uncivilised times, when a thief or murderer had fled, this useful quadruped would trace him through the thickest and most secret coverts; nor would he cease his pursuit till he had taken the felon. For this reason there was a law in Scotland, that whoever denied entrance to one of these dogs in pursuit of stolen goods, should be deemed an accessory. The blood-hound is very tall, elegantly formed, and superior to every other variety of the canine genus, in activity, speed, and sagacity.

Blood-hounds were formerly used in certain districts lying between England and Scotland, which were much infested by robbers and murderers: and a tax was laid on the inhabitants, for keeping and maintaining a certain number of these animals. But as the arm of justice is now extended over every part of the country, and there are no secret recesses where villainy can lie concealed, their services are happily become unnecessary.

Some few dogs of this kind are still kept in

Acute scent of the blood-hound.

the northern parts of the kingdom, and are used in pursuit of deer that have been previously wounded; they are also occasionally employed in discovering deer-stealers, whom they easily trace by the blood that issues from the wounds of their victims.

Mr. Boyle informs us, that a person of quality, to make trial whether a young blood-hound were well instructed, caused one of his servants to walk to a town four miles off, and then to a market-town three miles from thence. The dog, without seeing the man he was to pursue, followed him by the scent to the above-mentioned places, notwithstanding the multitude of market-people that went along the same road, and of travellers that had occasion to cross it; and when he came to the chief market-town, he passed through the streets without taking notice of any of the people there; and ceased not till he had gone to the house where the man he sought rested himself, and where he found him in an upper room, to the wonder of those who had accompanied him in this pursuit.

Somerville, in speaking of these animals, has beautifully described their mode of pursuing the nightly spoiler :

“ Soon the sagacious brute, his curling tail
Flourish'd in air, low bending, plies around
His busy nose, the steaming vapour snuffs
Inquisitive, nor leaves one turf untried,
Till, conscious of the recent stains, his heart
Beats quick ; his snuffing nose, his active tail,

Vigilance, &c.

Attest his joy : then with deep-opening mouth
That makes the welkin tremble, he proclaims
Th' audacious felon : Foot by foot he marks
His winding way, while all the list'ning crowd
Applaud his reasonings. O'er the wat'ry ford,
Dry sandy heaths, and stony barren hills;
O'er beaten paths, with men and beast distain'd,
Unerring he pursues ;—till at the cot
Arriv'd, and seizing by his guilty throat
The caitiff vile, redeems the captive prey.
So exquisitely delicate his sense !”

THE MASTIFF.

THE mastiff seems peculiar to Great Britain, where it is principally used as a watch-dog ; a duty which it discharges not only with great fidelity, but frequently with considerable judgment. Some of these animals will suffer a stranger to come into the inclosure they are appointed to guard, and will go peaceably along with him through every part of it, so long as he continues to touch nothing ; but the moment he attempts to lay hold of any of the goods, or endeavours to quit the place, the animal informs him, first by gentle growling, or, (if that prove ineffectual) by harsher means, that he must neither do mischief, nor go away. He seldom uses violence unless resisted ; and even in this case he will sometimes seize the person, throw him down, and hold him there until relieved, without biting him.

Singular instance of recollection.

A remarkable instance of memory in a mastiff is related by M. D'Obsonville. This animal, which he had brought up in India from two months old, accompanied himself and a friend from Pondicherry to Benglour, a distance of more than three hundred leagues. "Our journey," says he, "occupied nearly three weeks; and we had to traverse plains and mountains, and to ford rivers, and go along several bye-paths. The animal, which had certainly never been in that country before, lost us at Benglour, and immediately returned to Pondicherry. He went directly to the house of M. Beylier, then commandant of artillery, my friend, and with whom I had generally lived.—Now the difficulty is, not so much to know how the dog subsisted on the road, for he was very strong and able to procure himself food; but how he should so well have found his way, after an interval of more than a month!"

A curious account is related in Stow's Annals of an engagement between three mastiffs and a lion, in the presence of king James the First. One of the dogs, being put into the den, was soon disabled by the lion; which took him by the head and neck, and dragged him about. Another dog was then let loose; and was served in the same manner. But the third, being put in, immediately seized the lion by the lip, and held him for a considerable time; till, being severely torn by his claws, the dog was obliged

Engagement between three mastiffs and a lion.

to quit his hold. The lion, greatly exhausted now refused to renew the engagement: but, taking a sudden leap over the dogs, fled into the interior part of his den. Two of the dogs soon died of their wounds: the last survived, and was taken great care of by the king's son; who said, "He that had fought with the king of beasts should never after fight with any inferior creature."

This animal, conscious of his superior strength, has been known to chastise, with great dignity, the impertinence of an inferior. A large mastiff belonging to the late M. Ridley, Esq., of Heaton, near Newcastle, being frequently molested by a mongrel, and teased by its perpetual barking, at last took it up in his mouth by the back, and with great composure dropped it over the quay into the river, without doing any farther injury to his contemptible enemy.

Sir. H. Lee, of Ditchley, in Oxfordshire, ancestor of the late earls of Litchfield, had a mastiff which guarded the house and yard, but had never met with any particular attention from his master. In short, he was not a favourite dog, and was retained for his utility only, and not from any partial regard.

One night, as Sir Harry was retiring to his chamber, attended by his favourite valet, an Italian, the mastiff silently followed them up stairs, which he had never been known to do before; and, to his master's astonishment, presented him-

self in the bed-room. Being deemed an intruder, he was instantly ordered to be turned out; which being complied with, the poor animal began scratching violently at the door, and howling loudly for admission. The servant was sent to drive him away. Discouragement, however, could not check his intended labour of love; he returned again, and was more importunate to be let in than before.

Sir Harry, weary of opposition, though surprised beyond measure at the dog's apparent fondness for the society of a master who had never shown him the least kindness, and wishing to retire to rest, bade the servant open the door, that they might see what he wanted to do. This done, the mastiff, with a wag of the tail, and a look of affection at his lord, deliberately walked up, and crawling under the bed, laid himself down, as if desirous to take up his night's lodging there.

To save farther trouble, and not from any partiality for his company, this indulgence was allowed. The valet withdrew, and all was still. About the solemn hour of midnight, the chamber door opened, and a person was heard stepping across the room. Sir Harry started from sleep; the dog sprung from his covert, and, seizing the unwelcome disturber, fixed him to the spot.

All was dark; Sir Harry rang his bell in great trepidation, in order to procure a light. The person who was pinned to the floor by the cou-

rageous mastiff, roared for assistance. It was found to be the favourite valet, who little expected such a reception. He endeavoured to apologise for his intrusion, and to make the reasons which induced him to take this step appear plausible; but the importunity of the dog, the time, the place, the manner of the valet raised suspicions in Sir Harry's mind; and he determined to refer the investigation of the business to a magistrate.

The perfidious Italian, alternately terrified by the dread of punishment, and soothed by the hopes of pardon, at length confessed that it was his intention to murder his master, and then rob the house. This diabolical design was frustrated solely by the instinctive attachment of the dog to his master, which seemed to have been directed, on this occasion, by an interference of Providence. How else could he have learned to submit to injury and insult, for his well-meant services, and finally to seize and detain a person, who, it is probable, had shown him more kindness than his owner had ever done? A full length picture of Sir Harry, with the mastiff by his side, and the words, "More faithful than favoured" is still preserved among the family pictures.

THE BULL-DOG.

THIS animal is the fiercest of the species, and is probably the most courageous animal in the world. He is low in stature, but remarkably strong and muscular. The nose is short, and the projection of the under jaw beyond the upper, gives a peculiar fierceness to the aspect. The valour of this dog in attacking a bull is well known, and his fury in seizing, and his invincible obstinacy in maintaining his hold, are equally astonishing. Some years since, at a bull-baiting in the North of England, when that barbarous custom was more prevalent than at present, a young man, confident of the courage of his dog, laid some trifling wager that he would, at separate times, cut off all the animal's feet; and that, after every amputation, he would attack the bull. The barbarous experiment was tried; and the mutilated animal continued to seize the bull with unabated eagerness.

THE TERRIER.

THIS animal is generally an attendant on every pack of hounds, and is remarkably expert in forcing foxes or other game out of their coverts. It is the natural enemy of the smaller

An injury revenged.

quadrupeds, as rats, mice, weasels, &c.; and possesses so much courage as to attack even the badger.

An anecdote related by Mr. Hope, and authenticated by other persons; shows, that this animal is both capable of resentment when injured, and of great contrivance to accomplish it. A gentleman of Whitmore in Staffordshire, used to come twice a year to town; and being fond of exercise, generally performed the journey on horseback, accompanied most part of the way by a faithful little terrier, which, lest he might lose it in town, he always left to the care of his landlady at St. Alban's; and on his return he was sure to find his little companion well taken care of. But on his calling one time, as usual, for his dog, the landlady appeared before him with a woeful countenance: "Alas! Sir," said she, "your terrier is lost! Our great house-dog and he had a quarrel; and the poor terrier was so worried and bitten before we could part them, that I thought he could never have got the better of it. However, he crawled out of the yard, and no one saw him for almost a week. He then returned, and brought with him another dog, considerably larger than ours; and they both together fell on our great dog, and bit him so unmercifully, that he has scarcely since been able to go about the yard, or to eat his meat. Your dog and his companion then disappeared, and have never since been seen at St. Alban's." The gen-

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Aleman heard the story with patience, and endeavoured to reconcile himself to the loss. On his return home, however, he found his little terrier: and on enquiring into circumstances, was informed that he had been at Whitmore and had coaxed away the great dog, who it seems had, in consequence, followed him to St. Alban's and completely avenged his injury.

In the year 1796, a respectable farmer, at a village near Gosport, in Hampshire, had a terrier, which followed him wherever he went; and, as his business frequently led him across the water to Portsmouth, the dog as regularly attended him. The farmer had a son-in-law, a bookseller by trade, settled at Portsmouth, and being a family comfortable in themselves, a friendly intercourse was constantly kept up; and whenever visits were exchanged, the dog was always sure to be of the party. One day, the animal having lost his master in Portsmouth, after a fruitless search at many of his usual haunts, trotted to his friend the bookseller; and by whining and many gesticulations, gave him to understand he had lost his master, and wished to renew his search on the Gosport side, where the master then lived; but the water was an insuperable barrier to his desire, it being too wide for him to swim over. His supplications, however, were not in vain, for the bookseller, who understood his language, immediately called his boy, gave him a penny, and ordered him to go directly with the dog to

Crossing the ferry.

the beach, and give the ferryman the money for his passage to the opposite shore. The dog, who seemed to understand the whole proceeding, was much pleased, and jumped directly into the boat; and when landed at Gosport, immediately set off full speed home, where finding the beloved object of his pursuit, his joy was inexpressible. Ever after that time, when he lost his master at Portsmouth, he went to the bookseller, who gave his servant strict orders to pay his passage; which was always constantly done, to the great satisfaction of the dog, and high entertainment of his customers, who viewed with astonishment the sagacious creature undertake his nautical voyage.

This animal always attended his master and the family to church on Sunday, and during the service lay quietly under his master's seat; and from his extreme silence, and orderly behaviour, one might suppose he understood as much of the sermon as the greater part of the congregation.

It is likewise worthy of remark, that if the day proved rainy, he would sometimes, by following the chaise, make himself in a very dirty condition; but if the master or mistress only exclaimed, "For shame! Tinker, you surely would not go to church in such a filthy trim!" he would immediately hang down his head, slink back, return home, and rest quietly in the barn, until, conscious that he made a more decent appearance, he would scratch at the parlour door for admittance.

Remarkable instance of sagacity.

In the summer of 1796, a gentleman, having a small terrier, which he was particularly attached to, and which followed him wherever he went, was much surprised at the following remarkable instance of sagacity: It being a very hot summer, the animal was filled with fleas; and, as the master, in his evening walks, usually crossed a mill-dam, he took the liberty for several evenings, without the dog's consent, to plunge him in the stream; by way, as he supposed, of comforting the distressed animal, in making him swim to the opposite side, while he walked over the bridge. This was regularly repeated for some time; but one evening, on taking the accustomed walk, the master was surprised at observing the animal keep considerably a-head: at times he would approach somewhat nearer, and wag his tail, but always kept at a most respectful distance, until he came to the edge of the water near the bridge: here he stopped again, looked wistfully, and with dumb eloquence seemed thus to address his master: "If you conceive it necessary for my comfort, the preservation of my health, or your amusement, do not act by me clandestinely; for dogs are generous animals, and require no compulsion: exhort me kindly; do not throw me in by force, and I will instantly take to the water myself." He accordingly plunged into the stream, and ever after that time, as regularly swam over the brook, without any bidding, as the master walked over the bridge.

Vigilance of a dog in guarding money.

A publican in Bishopsgate-Street, had a small terrier, which had been so well instructed to notice money wherever he found it, that, on the master strewing a handful of halfpence on the floor, or table, before the dog, and desiring him to be careful, the animal would instantly fill his mouth, and scrape the rest with his fore paws under his breast; clearly indicating how zealous he was to protect the property. If a halfpenny were thrown by any of the guests through an iron grating in the parlour, communicating with the cellar, the dog would immediately dart down stairs, and remain in search till he found it. Once, when his master was particularly busy with a gentleman in the parlour, the dog came to him in a very importunate manner, scratched his feet, whined, and made every effort in his power to attract notice, but without effect; as he was then so deeply engaged in conversation, as to be quite insensible of his faithful servant's gestures; at length, however, he happened to look down, when, to his great astonishment, he saw his faithful little dog guarding a small dirty bag, which, on opening, he found to contain fourteen shillings and ninepence, which, no doubt, had been the property of some poor person; but whence the dog brought the hoard could never be discovered.

THE GREYHOUND.

“THE greyhound,” says an elegant writer, “is of a beautiful and delicate formation for speed and majestic attraction; and if a metaphorical allusion may be made between the human and the brute creation, the allegory would not be too far extended in considering this animal, from his appearance, equanimity, mildness, and affability, one of the superior classes of his own society; as he possesses all the dignity without the degradation of any part of his species, and is never seen but with a predilection in his favour.” It has also been observed, that in ancient times the greyhound was considered as a very valuable present, and particularly by the ladies, to whom a compliment so intrinsically valuable was highly acceptable.

In our own island, during the reign of king John, greyhounds were frequently received by him as payment in lieu of money, for the renewal of grants, fines, and forfeitures, belonging to the crown; the following extracts prove this monarch to have been exceedingly partial to this kind of dogs. A fine paid A. D. 1203, mentions five hundred marks, ten horses, and ten leashes of greyhounds; another, in 1210, one swift running horse, and six greyhounds.

In ancient times three several animals were coursed with greyhounds,—the deer, the fox, and

Ancient mode of coursing.

the hare. The two former are not practised at present, but the coursing of deer was a recreation formerly in high esteem, and was divided into two sorts; the paddock, and the forest, or pur-lieu. For the paddock-coursing, besides the greyhounds, which never exceeded two, and for the most part consisted of one brace, there was the teazel, or mongrel greyhound, whose business it was to drive the deer forward before the real greyhounds were slipt. The paddock was a piece of ground generally taken out of a park, and enclosed with pales, or a wall; it was a mile in length, and about a quarter of a mile in breadth, but the further end was always broader than that which the dogs started from, the better to accommodate the company in seeing which dog won the match. At the hither end was the dog-house (to enclose the dogs that were to run the course), which was attended by two men, one of whom stood at the door to slip the dogs, the other was a little without the door, to let loose the teazer to drive away the deer. The pens for the deer intended to be coursed, were on one side, with a keeper or two to turn them out; on the other side, at some distance, stood the spectators. Along the course were placed posts. The first, which was next the dog-house and pens, was the law-post, and was distant from them one hundred and sixty yards. The second was the quarter of a mile, the third the half mile, the fourth the pinching-post, and the fifth marked

Ancient methods of coursing.

distance, instead of a post, was the ditch, which was a place made so as to receive the deer, and keep them from being further pursued by the dogs. Near to this place were seats for the judges, who were appointed to decide the wager.

As soon as the greyhounds that were to run the match were led into the dog-house, they were delivered to the keepers, who, by the articles of coursing, were to see them fairly slipt; for which purpose, there was round each dog's neck a falling-collar, which slipt through rings. The owners of the dogs drew lots which should have the wall, that there should be no advantage; the dog-house door was then shut, and the keeper turned out the deer: after the deer had gone about twenty yards, the person that held the teaser loosed him, to force the deer forward, and when it was got to the law-post, the dogs were led out from the dog-house, and slipt. If the deer swerved before he got to the pinching-post, so that his head was judged to be nearer the dog-house than the ditch, it was deemed no match, and was to be run again three days after; but if there were no such swerve, and the dog ran straight until he went beyond the pinching-post, then that dog which was nearest the deer (should he swerve) gained the contest; if no swerve happened, then that dog which leaped the ditch first was the victor; if any disputes arose, they were referred to the articles of the course, and determined by the judges.

In coursing deer in the forest, or purlieu, two ways were used; the one coursing from wood to wood, and the other upon the lawn by the keepers' lodges. In the first, some hounds were thrown into the cover to drive out the deer, whilst the greyhounds were held ready to be slipt where the deer was expected to break; if the deer were not of a proper age and size, the dogs were not let loose; and if, on the other hand, he broke at too great a distance, or were otherwise deemed an overmatch for one brace, it was allowable to way-lay him with another brace of fresh greyhounds.

For the coursing upon the lawn, the keeper had notice given him, and he took care to lodge a deer fit for the purpose, and by sinking the wind of him, there was no danger of getting near enough to slip the greyhounds, and having a fair course.

In coursing the fox, no other art was necessary but to get the wind, and stand close on the outside of the wood, where he was expected to come out, and to give him law enough, or he instantly returned back to the cover; the slowest greyhounds were speedy enough to overtake him; and all the hazard was, the fox spoiling the dog, which frequently happened; for the most part, the greyhounds used for this course were hard-bitten dogs, that would seize any thing.

The invincible ardour and determined progress

Ardour in the chase.

of these animals in the chase are not easily to be restrained by any intervening obstacles that can be overcome by the most indefatigable perseverance.

One of this species of dogs, the property of a gentleman in Hertfordshire, having run a hare extremely hard, and turned her at least a dozen times, killed her by himself; but was so completely exhausted, that he lay down panting by her side, seemingly unable to rise. Two countrymen, perceiving the situation of the dog, and the master not coming up, hoped to secure the prize; but upon going to seize it, the greyhound sprung up, took the hare in his mouth, and run with it to his master, the fellows pursuing with stones and sticks. When he met his master, he laid down the hare at his feet, and immediately turning round, flew at the men, but was so enervated, that he dropped down as if dead: by proper attention, however, he was fortunately restored, and continued long a faithful servant to his owner.

A gentleman of Worcester paying a visit to a friend a few miles distant, took with him a brace of greyhounds, for the purpose of a day's coursing: a hare was soon found, which the dogs ran for several miles, and with such speed, as to be very soon out of sight of the party who pursued; but, after a very considerable search, both the dogs and the hare were found dead, within a few yards of each other; nor did it appear that the

former had caught the hare, as no marks of violence were discovered upon her. A labouring man, whom they past, said he saw the dogs turn her two or three times.

In the year 1792, as a game-keeper of Lord Egremont's was leading a brace of greyhounds in couples, a hare accidentally crossed the road in view: this temptation proved so irresistible, that the dogs, by a joint effort, suddenly broke from their conductor, and gave chase, shackled as they were together, to the great admiration of those who were spectators of a scene so novel and entertaining. When they got up, and gave the hare the first turn, it was evidently much to her advantage, as the greyhounds were so embarrassed that it was with great difficulty they could change the direction. Notwithstanding this temporary delay, however, they sustained no diminution of natural energy, but continued the course through and over various obstructions; till the object of their pursuit fell a victim to their invincible perseverance, after a run of between three and four miles.

A few years since, the greyhound of a gentleman who was delayed at Dover in waiting for a wind, was taken by the owner and a small party, in search of a hare who had escaped her previous pursuers of every description. When found, the greyhound soon proved himself so superior in speed, that the hare instantly ran for the cliff, as the only chance of escaping; but her pursuer,

throwing himself at her some yards, with the most incredible and determined ferocity, caught her exactly upon the brink, and unfortunately went with her in his mouth to the bottom, where they were literally dashed to atoms.

THE SHEPHERD'S DOG.

IN those extensive tracts of land which, in many parts of Great Britain, are appropriated to the feeding of sheep and other cattle, this animal is of the utmost utility and importance: his voice is more attended to than even that of the shepherd; and safety, order, and discipline are the results of his vigilance and attention. This breed is, at present, preserved in the greatest purity in the northern parts of Scotland.

The following anecdotes of sagacity and attachment cannot fail of affording some amusement to the reader:

In the very severe winter of 1794, as Mr. Boustead's son was looking after his father's sheep, on Great Salkeld Common, near Penrith, in Cumberland, he had the misfortune to fall and break his leg. He was then three miles from home, no person within call, and evening approaching. Under the impulse arising from the desperate circumstances of his situation, he folded up one of his gloves in his handkerchief, tied this about the neck of his dog, and ordered him

home. Dogs that are trained to an attendance on flocks are generally under admirable subjection to the commands of their masters. The animal set off; and, arriving at the house, scratched at the door for admittance. The parents were alarmed at his appearance; and concluding, on taking off and unfolding the handkerchief, that some accident had befallen their son, they instantly went in search of him. The dog needed no invitation. Apparently sensible that the chief part of his duty was not yet performed, he led the way, and conducted the anxious parents to the spot where their son lay. The young man was taken home: and the necessary aid being procured, he was soon in a fair way of recovery.

The following instance of sagacity, however improbable it may appear to an unreflecting mind, is well authenticated, and peculiarly worthy of attention.

Donald Archer, a grazier, near Paisley, in Scotland, had long kept a fine dog, for the purpose of attending his cattle on the mountains; a service which he performed with the greatest vigilance. The grazier having a young puppy given him by a friend, brought it home to his house, and was remarkably fond of it: but on the puppy being caressed, the old sheep-dog invariably snarled and appeared greatly dissatisfied; and when at times it came to eat with old Brutus, a dislike was evident, which at length made him

him leave the house; and, notwithstanding every research, his master was never able to discover his abode.

About four years after this elopement, the grazier had been driving a herd of cattle to a neighbouring fair, where he disposed of them, received his money, and set out on his return home. Having proceeded about ten miles on his journey, he was overtaken by a tempest of wind and rain, that raged with such violence, as to cause him to look for a place of shelter; but not being able to perceive any house at hand, he struck out of the main road, and ran towards a wood that appeared at some distance, where he escaped the storm by crouching under the trees; but by this means, he insensibly departed from the proper way he had to go, until he had actually lost himself, and knew not where he was. He travelled, however, according to the best of his judgment, though not without fear of being attacked by some robbers, whose depredations had recently been the terror of the neighbouring country. A smoke that came from some bushes, convinced him that he was near a house, to which he thought it prudent to go, in order that he might learn where he was, and procure refreshment: accordingly he crossed a path, and came to the door, knocked and demanded admission; the landlord, a surly looking fellow, gave him an invitation to enter and be seated, in a room that wore but an indifferent aspect. Our traveller

An unexpected meeting.

was hardly before the fire, when he was saluted with equal surprise and kindness by his former dog, old Brutus, who came wagging his tail, and demonstrating all the gladness he could express. Archer immediately knew the animal, and was astonished at thus unexpectedly finding him so many miles from home; he did not, however, think proper to enquire of his host, at that time, how he came into his possession; as the appearance of every thing about him rendered his situation very unpleasant. By this time it was dark, the weather continued rainy, and no opportunity presented itself to the unfortunate grazier, by which he might pursue his journey. He enquired of the landlord where he was? but received the unpleasant intelligence that he was fourteen miles from Paisley, and that if he ventured out again before day-light, it was almost impossible for him to find his way, as the night was so bad; but if he chose to remain where he was, every thing should be done to render his situation comfortable. The grazier was at a loss how to act; he did not like the house he was in, nor the suspicious looks of the host and family: but to go out in the wood during the night, and to encounter the violence of the conflicting elements, might, in all probability, turn out more fatal than to remain where he was. He therefore resolved to wait the return of morning; and after a short conversation he was conducted to an apartment, and left to take his repose,

It may be here necessary to inform the reader, that from the first moment of Archer's arrival, the dog had not left him a moment, but had even followed him into the chamber, where he placed himself under the bed, unperceived by the landlord. The door being shut, our traveller began to revolve in his mind the singular appearance of his old companion, his lonely situation, and the manners of the inmates of the house; the whole of which tended to confirm his suspicion of being in a place of danger and uncertainty. His reflections were soon interrupted by the approach of the dog, who came fawning from under the bed, and by several extraordinary gestures, endeavoured to direct his attention to a particular corner of the room. He accordingly went thither, and saw a sight that called up every sentiment of horror; the floor was stained with blood, which seemed to flow out of a closet, that was secured by a lock, which he in vain attempted to force. No longer doubting his situation, but considering himself as the next victim of the wretches into whose society he had fallen, he resolved to sell his life as dearly as possible, and either to perish in the attempt or effect his deliverance.

With this determination, he pulled out his pistols, and softly opened the door, honest Brutus at his heels, with his shaggy hair erect, like the bristles of a boar, bent on destruction; he reached the bottom of the stairs with as much caution as

A fortunate escape.

possible, and listened attentively for a few minutes, when he heard a conversation between several persons whom he had not seen when he first came into the house, which left him no room to doubt of their intention. The villainous landlord was informing them, in a low tone, of the booty they would find in the possession of his guest, and the moment they were to murder him for that purpose!

Alarmed as Archer was, he immediately concluded that no time was to be lost in using his utmost exertion to save his life; he, therefore, without hesitation, burst in amongst them, and fired his pistol at the landlord, who fell from his seat; the rest of the gang were struck with astonishment at so sudden an attack, while the grazier made for the door, let himself out, and fled with rapidity, followed by the dog. A musket was discharged after him, but fortunately did not do any injury. With all the speed that danger could create, he ran until day-light enabled him to perceive a house, and the main road at no great distance. To this house he immediately went, and related all that he had seen to the landlord, who immediately called up a recruiting party that were quartered upon him, the serjeant of which accompanied the grazier in search of the house in the wood. The services and sagacity of the faithful dog were now more than ever rendered conspicuous, for by running before the

The discovery.

company, and his singular behaviour, he led them to the desired spot.

On entering the house, not a living creature was to be seen; all had deserted it; they therefore began to explore the apartments, and found in the very closet, the appearance of which had led the grazier to attempt his escape, the murdered remains of a traveller, who was afterwards advertised throughout all the country. On coming into the lower room, the dog began to rake the earth near the fire-place with his feet, in such a manner as to excite the curiosity of all present; the serjeant ordered the place to be dug up, when a trap-door was discovered, which, on being opened, was found to contain the mangled bodies of many that had been robbed and murdered, with the landlord himself, who was not quite dead, though he had been shot through the neck by the grazier. The wretches in their quick retreat had thrown him in amongst those who had formerly fallen victims to their cruelty, supposing him past recovery; he was, however, cured of his wounds, and brought to justice.

A farmer of Halling, returning much inebriated from Maidstone market, with his dog, when the whole face of the country was covered with snow, mistook his path, and leaped over a ditch on his right hand, towards the river; fortunately he was unable to get up the bank, or he would have fallen into the Medway, at nearly high

A farmer's life preserved by his dog.

water. Overcome with the liquor, he fell amongst the snow, in one of the coldest nights ever remembered; turning on his back, he was soon asleep; his dog scratched the snow from about him, and then mounted upon the body, rolled himself round, and laid himself on his master's bosom, for which his shaggy hide proved a seasonable covering. In this state, with snow falling all the while, the farmer and his dog lay the whole night; in the morning a gentleman, who was out with his gun, perceiving an uncommon appearance, proceeded towards it; at his approach the dog got off the body, shook the snow from him, and, by significant actions, encouraged the stranger to advance. Upon wiping the snow from the face, the person was immediately recognised, and was conveyed to the first house, when a pulsation in the heart being perceptible, the necessary means to recover him were employed, and in a short time he was able to relate his own story; and ordered a silver collar to be made for his kind preserver as a perpetual remembrancer of the transaction.

Dr. Anderson, in his translation from Dr. Pallas, introduces the following instance of sagacity in a shepherd's dog, which he considers truly astonishing.

“The owner himself having been executed some years ago, for sheep-stealing, the following fact, among others, respecting the dog, was authenticated by evidence upon his trial:—When

A canine sheep-stealer.

the man intended to steal any sheep, he did not do it himself, but detached his dog to perform the business. With this view, under pretence of looking at the sheep, with an intention to purchase them, he went through the flock, with the dog at his heels to whom he secretly gave a signal, so as to let him know the individuals he wanted, to the number of ten or twenty, out of a flock of some hundreds: he then went away, and at a distance of several miles sent back the dog by himself in the night time; who selected the individual sheep that had been pointed out to him, separated them from the flock, and drove them before him till he overtook his master."

The following instance of docility and faithfulness, is copied from T. Young's Essay on Humanity, which is given by the author on the authority of a friend. It occurred some years ago, in that part of Scotland which borders on England:—A shepherd had driven a part of his flock to a neighbouring fair, leaving his dog to watch the remainder during that day and the next night; expecting to revisit them the following morning. Unfortunately, however, when at the fair, the shepherd forgot both his dog and his sheep, and did not return home till the morning of the third day. His first enquiry was, Whether his dog had been seen? The answer was, No, "Then," replied the shepherd, with a tone and gesture of anguish, "he must be dead, for I know he was too faithful to desert his charge."

He instantly repaired to the heath. The dog had just sufficient strength remaining to crawl to his master's feet, and express his joy at his return; and almost immediately after expired.

DALMATIAN, OR COACH-DOG.

THIS animal, sometimes erroneously called the Danish dog, is now very common in Great Britain; and is frequently kept as an elegant attendant on a carriage. "His attendance upon the horses when in a state of activity," says a modern writer, "and his exulting consciousness of dignity in preceding the carriage, as if to announce its approach, seem to constitute the most superlative gratification of his existence."

The following observations of Mr. Dibdin, in his Tour through England, are equally interesting and appropriate.

"Dogs, if I may be permitted the expression, have noble passions, and possess a rectitude which, if it be instinct, proves that instinct is superior to reason. Their gratitude is unbounded; their devotion exemplary; their study and delight are to please and serve their master; they watch his commands, they wait upon his smiles, they obey, oblige, and protect him, and are ready to die in his defence: nay, they love him so wholly and entirely, that their very existence depends upon his attention to them. I have always

loved dogs, and the observations I have made are innumerable, and all to their advantage; among the rest I am competent to declare, that they make friendships, always, however, with caution, among one another. Upon these occasions, they premise their compact, they observe it inviolably, and this understood, the strongest protect the rest.

“ I shall now relate a circumstance which happened under my own observation last summer, and I introduce it here to give it force. You know I would not affront you by asserting a falsity, and I hope the public are equally inclined to credit what I most solemnly declare to be fact. This is the least I could say as the preface to my story,

“ I took with me last summer one of those spotted dogs, which are generally called Danish, but the breed is Dalmatian. It was impossible for any thing to be more sportive, yet more inoffensive than this dog. Throughout the mountainous parts of Cumberland and Scotland, his delight was to chase the sheep, which he would follow with great alertness even to the summits of the most rugged steep; and when he had frightened them and made them scamper to his satisfaction, (for he never attempted to injure them,) he constantly came back, wagging his tail, and appearing very happy at those caresses which we, perhaps absurdly, bestowed upon him.

“ About seven miles on this side Kinross, in

Friendship contracted between a lamb and a dog.

the way from Stirling, he had been amusing himself with playing these pranks, the sheep flying from him in all directions, when a black lamb turned upon him, and looked him full in the face. He seemed astonished for an instant; but, before he could rally his resolution, the lamb began to paw and play with him. It is impossible to describe the effect this had upon him; his tail was between his legs, he appeared in the utmost dread, and slunk away confused and distressed. Presently his new acquaintance invited him, by all manner of gambols, to be friends with him. What a moment for Pythagoras or Lavater! Gradually overcoming his fears, he accepted this brotherly challenge, and they raced away together, and rolled over one another like two kittens. Presently appeared another object of distress. The shepherd's boy came to reclaim his lamb; it paid no attention, except to the dog, and they were presently at a considerable distance. We slackened our pace for the convenience of the boy; but nothing would do: we could no more call off the dog than he could catch the lamb. They continued sporting in this manner for more than a mile and a half. At length, having taken a circuit, they were in our rear; and, after we had crossed a small bridge, the boy with his pole kept the lamb at bay, and at length caught him, and tied his plaid round him to prevent an escape. Out of fear of the boy, and in obedience to us, the dog followed reluctantly; but the

Labours performed by dogs in Holland.

situation of the lamb all this time cannot be pictured; he made every possible attempt to pass the boy, and even endeavoured to mount the parapet, as if determined to jump into the river, rather than not follow the dog. This continued till the prospect closed, and we had lost sight of our new ally, whose unexpected offer of amity to Spot, seemed ever after to operate as a friendly admonition; for from that day, he was cured of following sheep."

Mr. Pratt informs us, that in Holland, dogs are constrained to promote the trade of the republic; insomuch that (excepting the great dogs of state, which run before or after their lords' and ladies' equipages, and, in imitation of their betters, are above being of any use) there is not an idle dog, of any size in the Seven Provinces. "You see them in harness," says he, "at all parts of the Hague, and some other towns, tugging at barrows, and little carts, with their tongues almost sweeping the ground, and their poor hearts almost ready to beat through their sides: frequently three, five, and sometimes six a-breast, carrying men and merchandise, with the speed of little horses. In the walk, from the Hague gate to Scheveling, you will meet, at all hours of the day, an incredible number loaded with fish and men, under the burden of which they run off at a long trot, and sometimes, when

Labours performed by dogs in Holland.

driven by young men or boys, at full gallop, the whole mile and a half, which is the distance from gate to gate; nor, on their return, are they suffered to come empty, being filled not only with the aforesaid men or boys, (for almost every Dutchman hates walking when he can ride, though half a mile,) but with such commodities as cannot be had at the village. I have seen these poor brutes, in the middle of summer, urged beyond their force, till they have dropped on the road to gather strength. This, however, is seldom the case, except they have the misfortune to fall under the management of boys; for the Dutch are far from being cruel to their domestic animals."

This humane friend to the canine race further observes: "In my first visit (a winter one) to the Hague, I entered into the interests of these poor day-labouring dogs so truly, that I wondered they did not go mad, or that I did not hear of the canine distraction more in this country than in ours; and on being told there were certain times (the dog-days) when a heavy fine was to be paid upon any dog being seen in the street, I supposed this was the case, till the summer following, being at this delightful sea-side village of Scheveling, I observed, several times in the day, these draft dogs brought down to the beach, and bathed; a practise, which no doubt equally prevented them from this dreadful disor-

der before mentioned, and gave them strength to go through their work.

“ It is fortunate, also, that Holland is a country somewhat prone to be strict in the ceremonies of religion, by observance of which, the dogs, like their masters, find the seventh a day of unbroken rest; for ‘ Sunday shines a Sabbath day to them.’ The first impression, which is allowed a grand point, being much in favour of these industrious creatures, I had an eye on them, as well in the hours of their repose as toil: and felt my heart warm to see several, whom I had observed very heavily laden on the Saturday, taking a sound nap, outstretched and happy at their masters’ doors, on the day in which their leisure is even an allotment and bounty of heaven. All the morning and afternoon they have remained, basking in the sun, or in the shade, in profound tranquillity; while a number of whelps, and lazy puppies, who had been passing their time in idleness all the week, were playing their gambols in the street, not without a vain attempt to wake the seniors, and make them join in their amusement. Towards evening, I have, in my sun-setting rounds, been much pleased to notice the honest creatures sit at their respective thresholds, looking quite refreshed, giving occasionally into a momentary frolic, and the next morning returning to the labours of the week absolutely renewed.”

In addition to the anecdotes already adduced respecting the discovery of murder by dogs, I beg leave to present the following to the notice of my readers.

The servants of a gentleman, who had a house near the river's side, opposite to a little island in the river Thames (which is said from this circumstance to have been called the isle of dogs), observed that a dog came constantly every day to them to be fed; and, as soon as his wants were satisfied, took to the water and swam away. On relating this circumstance to their master, the gentleman desired them to take a boat and follow the animal, the next time he came. They did so; and the dog at their landing expressed great pleasure, and used all the means in his power to invite them to follow him, which they continued to do, till he stopped, and scratched with his foot upon the ground; and from that spot he would not move. Either that day, or the next, they dug up the earth in the place, and found the body of a man, but it was impossible to discover who it was, and after every requisite step had been taken to find out the assassin, the corse was buried, and the dog discontinued his visits to the island.

The gentleman, pleased with a creature which had shown such uncommon sagacity, and attachment to his former master, caressed him greatly, and made him the frequent companion of his walks. One day, when he had been in posses-

Detection of a murderer by a dog.

sion of the animal some time, he was going to take boat at one of the stairs in London, when the dog, which had never before been known to do such a thing, seized one of the watermen. It immediately occurred to the gentleman that this fellow was the murderer of the dog's master; and, on his taxing him with it, he directly confessed the fact, was taken into custody, and soon after executed.

Mr. Johnson, a traveller from Manchester, on his route through Scotland, on horseback, was benighted, and passing a small public house on the road, he thought it better to take up his lodgings there, if possible, than to proceed farther that night. On entering the house, he found only an old woman, who, to his enquiries answered, she would accommodate him with a bed, and provide for the horse in a small shed, if he would assist her in giving him hay, &c. as there was no other person then in the house. This was agreed to by Mr. Johnson, who, after taking a little refreshment, was shown by the old woman to his bed-room.

A large dog, which accompanied him on his journey, offered to go up to the room along with him, which the old woman strongly objected to; but Mr. Johnson firmly persisted in having him admitted. The dog, on his entrance, began to growl, and was very unruly. His master attempted to quiet him in vain—he continued growling and looking angrily under the bed,

which induced Mr. Johnson to look there likewise; when, to his great astonishment, he saw a man concealed at the farther end. On encouraging the dog, he sprung immediately at the man, whilst Mr. Johnson seized his pistols, and, presenting one to the man, who had a large knife in his hand, and was struggling with the dog, declared he would instantly shoot him, if he made further resistance. The man then submitted to be bound, and acknowledged his intention was to rob and murder Mr. Johnson, which was thus providentially prevented by the wonderful sagacity of this faithful quadruped.

A few years since, a lady, who lived a few miles out of town, came to London to receive a large sum of money. She received the cash, and returned back with it in her own carriage to the country, without any thing particular happening on the road. It was evening when she arrived, and being fatigued with her journey, she proposed retiring early to rest. On her stepping into bed, she was much surprised at the uneasiness of her little dog, who always slept in the chamber with her. Though desired to lie still, that his mistress might go to sleep, the animal persisted in pulling the bed-clothes, and at length jumped on the bed, and endeavoured, with great avidity, to pull them off. The lady then conceiving something very extraordinary must occasion the dog's uneasiness, immediately jumped out of bed, and being a very courageous woman,

Prevention of robbery, &c.

slipped on a petticoat, and placed a brace of pistols (which were always in a closet adjoining), at her side, and boldly went down stairs. She had not proceeded far, when looking around, she perceived the coachman coming down another pair of stairs, quite dressed. With great presence of mind she pointed one of the pistols, and threatened him with instant death, unless he directly returned to bed. She then proceeded to the back parlour, when, on hearing a distant murmuring kind of noise, she advanced to the window, and fired in the direction whence the noise came. All was then immediately silent, and nothing further transpired that night. The next morning she traced blood through her garden to a considerable distance: and not thinking it prudent to keep so large a sum any longer in the house, ordered her carriage, and drove to town with the utmost expedition; and after depositing her property, went to Sir John Fielding, and related the whole of the circumstance to him, who, after applauding her singular courage, advised her to part with the coachman directly, and he would endeavour to investigate the matter minutely, and punish the offending parties according to their deserts. Thus was robbery, and murder, most likely, prevented by the instinct of this faithful little animal.

In October, 1803, during the deluge with which the island of Madeira was visited, a remarkable circumstance happened near St. John's

Remarkable preservation.

river. A maid-servant, in flying from one of the falling houses, dropped an infant from her arms, which was supposed to have perished. Next day, however, it was found unhurt, on a dry piece of ground, along with a lap-dog, belonging to the same family. The dog was close by the child, and it is imagined that the child was kept alive by the warmth of the animal's body.

The late Alderman Yearsley, of Congleton, in Cheshire, had a favourite bitch, which appears to have been an instrument in the hands of Providence, of saving a valuable life :

Mr. Yearsley had gone out one evening to a public house, and taken the dog with him. A little before he was expected home, the animal returned, and scratched at the door for admittance. Being let in, she followed her mistress into the kitchen, where she set up a strange kind of whining or barking, and turned towards the street door, as if inviting her mistress to follow. This she repeated several times, to the great astonishment of Mrs. Yearsley. At length a thought struck her, that Mr. Yearsley had met with some accident in the street, and that the bitch, which could scarcely be ever driven from him, was come to guide her to him. Alarmed with this idea, she hastily adjusted her cap, and followed the animal, which led her to her master, whom to her agreeable disappointment, she found very well at the house he went to. She told them the cause of her coming, and go

herself laughed at for her pains. But their ridicule was soon converted into admiration on being informed that the kitchen had fallen in, the very instant Mrs. Yearsley had shut the street-door, and that the wash-bowl she had left was crushed into a thousand picces. The animal was preserved twelve or thirteen years after, till she had turned her sixteenth, when her death was a little accelerated by the bite of a mad dog.

A few years since; a distiller, who lived at Chelsea, had a middle-sized brown dog, of the mixed breed, between the cur and spaniel, which had received so complete an education from the porter, that he was considered a very valuable acquisition. This porter generally used to carry out the liquors, to the neighbouring customers, in small casks, tied up in a coarse bag, or put in a barrow; and whenever the man thought proper to refresh himself, he would stop the barrow, and calling Basto, (which was the dog's name,) in a very peremptory manner, bid him mind the bag—and away he went to drink, and frequently left the barrow in the middle of the street. Basto always rested near his trust, and sometimes apparently asleep, which induced many idle people, who, seeing a bag in the road without an owner, to attempt stealing the same; but no sooner had they endeavoured to decamp with the prize, than this vigilant animal flew at them with such outrage, as obliged them immediately to relinquish the undertaking: and glad were they to escape.

with a few bites, and leave the tempting bait to catch other dishonest rogues, as it had done them.

One day, a person having particular business with the master, which required dispatch, went to the distillery adjoining the dwelling, thinking it very likely he might meet him there giving orders to the servant; and finding the outward door open, walked into the still-room; but no sooner had he gone a few steps, than a fierce growl assailed his ears, and almost imperceptibly he was pinioned by terror to the wall. The affrighted person called loudly for help, but the family being at the other part of the house, his cries were fruitless. The generous animal, however, who had the frightened man close in custody, scorned to take a mean advantage of his situation, by recommencing hostilities; he remained perfectly quiet, unless the delinquent attempted to stir; he then became as furious as ever; so that the prisoner prudently remained like a statue fixed against the wall, while Basto, like a sentinel on his post, kept a strict guard, lest he should escape before the family arrived. In about twenty minutes, the master, in coming from the parlour to the counting-house, beheld the prisoner, and Basto walking backwards and forwards beside him. The dog, by a thousand gesticulations, seemed to wish a proper explanation might take place. The master laughed heartily

at the poor fellow's expence, as did he likewise when happily liberated from his vigilant enemy.

"A gentleman in the city," says Mr. Dibdin, "had a dog so attached to him that he knew no pleasure in the absence of his master. This dog, of course, he loved and valued; for I have the pleasure of knowing him, and I believe no man can have more humanity or sensibility. The gentleman married: and in a short time the dog seemed to feel a diminution of affection towards him, and testified great uneasiness; but, finding his mistress grew fond of him, his pleasure seemed to redouble, and he was perfectly happy. Something more than a year after this they had a child. There was now a decided inquietude about the dog, and it was impossible to avoid noticing that he felt himself miserable. The attention paid to the child increased his wretchedness; he loathed his food, and nothing could content him, though he was treated on this very account with the utmost tenderness. At last he hid himself in the coal cellar, whence every kind and solicitous means were taken to induce him to return, but all in vain. He was deaf to all intreaty, rejected all kindness, refused to eat, and continued firm to his resolution, till exhausted nature yielded to death."

"I shall give", continues our author, "one more instance of the affecting kind.—The grandfather of as amiable a man as ever existed, and

one of my kindest and most valuable friends, had a dog of the above endearing description. This gentleman had an occupation which obliged him to go a journey periodically, I believe every month. His stay was short, and his departure and return were regular, and without variation. The dog always grew uneasy when first he lost his master, and moped in a corner, but recovered himself gradually as the time of his return approached; which he knew to an hour, nay, to a minute, as I shall prove. When convinced that his master was on the road at no great distance from home, he flew all over the house, and if the street door happened to be shut, he would suffer no servant to have any rest till it was opened. The moment he obtained his freedom away he went, and to a certainty met his benefactor about two miles from town. He played and frolicked about him till he had obtained one of his gloves, with which he ran or rather flew home, entered the house, laid it down in the middle of the room, and danced round it. When he had sufficiently amused himself in this manner, out of the house he flew, returned to meet his master, and ran before him, or gambolled by his side, till he arrived with him at home.

“ I know not how frequently this was repeated, but it lasted till the old gentleman grew infirm, and incapable of continuing his journies. The dog by this time was also old, and became at length blind; but this misfortune did not hinder

him from fondling his master, whom he knew from every other person, and for whom his affection and solicitude rather increased than diminished. The old gentleman after a short illness died. The dog knew the circumstance; attended the corpse, blind as he was; and did his utmost to prevent the undertaker from screwing up the body in the coffin, and most outrageously opposed its being taken out of the house. Being past hope, he grew disconsolate, lost his flesh, and was evidently verging towards his end. One day he heard a gentleman come into the house, and rose to meet him. His master, being old and infirm, had worn ribbed worsted stockings for warmth; this gentleman happened to have stockings on of the same kind. The dog, from this information, thought it was his master, and began to demonstrate the most extravagant pleasure, but, upon farther examination, finding his mistake, he retired into a corner, where, in a short time afterwards he expired."

Plutarch records, that a person getting into the temple of Esculapius, after he had stolen all the massy offerings of gold and silver, made his escape, not believing he was discovered. But the dog which belonged to the temple, which was called Cipparas, when he found that none of the sacristanes took any notice of his barking, pursued himself the sacrilegious thief; and, though at first the fellow pelted him with stones, he could not beat him off. As soon as it was

day, the dog still followed him, though at such a distance, that he always kept him in his eyes. When the fellow threw him meat, he refused it; when he went to bed, the dog watched at his door; and when he rose in the morning, the animal still followed him, fawning upon the passengers upon the road, but still barking and baying at the heels of the robber. These things, when they heard who were in pursuit of the sacrilegious person, and were told withal by those they met, the colour and bigness of the dog, they were the more vigorous in the pursuit, and by that means overtaking the thief, brought him back from Cromyon; while the animal ran before, leaping and capering, and full of joy, as it were challenging to himself the praise and reward of apprehending the temple robber: and the Athenians were so grateful to him, that they decreed a certain quantity of meat to be publicly measured to him, and ordered the priests to take care to see it done.

A certain Roman was slain in the civil wars, whose head nobody durst cut off, for fear of the dog that guarded his body, and fought in his defence. It happened that King Pyrrhus, travelling that way, observed the animal watching over the body of the deceased; and hearing that he had been there three days without meat or drink, yet would not forsake his master, ordered the body to be buried, and the dog preserved and brought to him. A few days afterward there

Instances of sagacity.

was a muster of the soldiers, so that every man was forced to march in order before the king. The dog lay quietly by him for some time, but when he saw the murderers of his late owner pass by, he flew upon them with extraordinary fury, barking and tearing their throats, and frequently turning about to the king; which both excited the king's suspicion, and the jealousy of all that stood about him. The men were in consequence apprehended, and though the circumstances were very slight, which otherwise appeared against them, yet they confessed the fact, and were brought to punishment.

Plutarch also informs us of a dog, that would not stir from the body of his deceased master; and when he saw the carcase burning, ran and threw himself into the flames. The same is reported to have been done by a dog, that was kept by one Pyrrhus; (not the king, but a private person of that name;) for upon the death of his master, he would not stir from the body, but when it was carried forth he leaped upon the bier, and at length threw himself into the funeral pile, and was burnt alive.

In Lambeth church, there is a painting of a man with a dog, on one of the windows.

Tradition informs us, that a piece of ground near Westminster-Bridge, containing one acre, and nineteen roods, (named Pedlar's Acre), was left to this parish, by a pedlar; upon condition, that his picture, and that of the dog, should be

perpetually preserved on painted glass, on one of the windows of the church, which the parishioners have carefully performed. The time of this gift was in 1504, when the ground was let at two shillings and eight pence per annum; but in the year 1762, it was let on lease at 100l. per year, and a fine of 800l. and is now estimated to be worth 250l. yearly. The reason alledged for the pedlar's request, is, that being very poor, and passing the aforementioned piece of ground, he could by no means get his dog away, who continued scratching a particular spot of earth, until he attracted his master's notice; who going back to examine the cause, and pressing with his stick, found something hard, which, on a nearer inspection, proved a pot of gold. With part of this money he purchased the land, and settled in the parish; to which he bequeathed it on the aforesaid conditions.

M. Le Vaillant, during his travels in Africa, one day missed a favourite little bitch, that he had taken out with him. After much shouting and firing of guns, in order, if possible, to make her hear where the party was, he directed one of his Hottentots to mount a horse, and return some distance in search of her. In about four hours, the man returned with her on his saddle, bringing with him, at the same time, a chair and a basket, which had been accidentally dropped from one of the waggons. The animal was found at the distance of about two leagues, lying in the road,

and watching the lost chair and basket: and had the man been unsuccessful in his pursuit, she must unavoidably either have perished with hunger, or fallen a prey to some of the wild beasts, with which these plains abound.

The fidelity of the dog is recorded in the noble order of the elephant, instituted by Christian the First, king of Denmark, so far back as the year 1463. The origin was, his being deserted at a most critical period, by all his friends and courtiers, at the time he stood in great need of their assistance. And having a favourite dog, called Wildbrat, who loved, and constantly attended him, the contrast between this grateful animal, and the infidelity of the vipers he had formerly cherished, struck him so forcibly, that he commemorated the fact, by having the following initials placed under the elephant's feet, which hangs at the bottom of the order.

T. I. W. B.—True is Wildbrat.

Mr. Taylor informs us, in his General Character of the Dog, that one of his friends being at Ramsgate, for the benefit of his health, in the year 1798, was often diverted by observing a person stand on a cliff, which looked into the inner bason of Ramsgate pier, and calling his favourite dog, showed him a halfpenny, and then threw it down the cliff among the shingles. The animal immediately took a circuit to the bottom of the cliff, and searched till he found the halfpenny, which he carried directly into town to a

Terror of the hydrophobia.

baker's shop, where the baker gave him a roll in exchange for his money, and was better pleased with the orderly behaviour of this four-footed customer than with one half of the bipeds.

The following anecdote, related on the authority of the late Dr. James affords a convincing proof of the wonderful sagacity of the dog, relative to its terror of the hydrophobia.

A person, who used to come every day to the doctor's house, was so beloved by three spaniels, which the doctor kept, that they never failed to jump into his lap, and caress him the whole time he staid. It happened that this man was bitten by a mad dog, and the very first night he came under the influence of the distemper, they all ran away from him to the top of the garret stairs, barking and howling, and showing all possible signs of distress and consternation. The man was fortunately cured, but the dogs were not reconciled to him for three years afterwards.

Some time since, a worthy member of parliament kept a pack of hounds, among which was a favourite bitch, that was generally permitted to be a parlour guest. This animal had a litter of whelps, and the gentleman one day took them out of the kennel, when the bitch was absent, and drowned them: shortly after, she came to the kennel, and missing them, she sought for, and at last found them drowned in the pond. She then brought them out one by one, and laid

Maternal affection.

them at her master's feet in the parlour; and when she brought the last whelp, she looked up in her owner's face, laid herself down, and expired. This story is said to have been first published on the authority of the gentleman's wife.

A person at Preston, in Lancashire, had a favourite bitch, who when her puppies were taken from her, attended the bearer of each of them to their places of destination, and then returned home. She was observed, however, to visit them every day, for several weeks, and carry each of them whatever she could cater and spare from the cravings of her own appetite. This conduct she uniformly practised towards every litter.

When the ranks of the Imperialists were broken at the battle of Castiglione, and the heat of the pursuit was in proportion to the obstinacy of the contest, the victorious general coming to the spot where the thickest of the combat had taken place, where French and Austrians lay strewed in horrible profusion; perceived amidst those piles of corpses, one living object, which was a little Barbet dog. The faithful creature stood with his two fore-feet fixed on the breast of an Austrian officer; his long ears hung over his eyes, which were rivetted on those of his dead master. The tumult seemed neither to distract the attention nor change the attitude of the mourner, absorbed by the object to which he clung. The general, struck with the specta-

The dismissed huntsman.

cle, stopped his horse, called his attendants around him, and pointed out the subject of his speculation.

“That dog,” said he, “as if he had known my voice, removed his eyes from his master, and throwing them on me for a moment, resumed his former posture; but in that momentary look, there was a mute eloquence beyond the power of language; it was a reproach with all the poignancy of bitterness.” The upbraidings of the animal were construed into a comprehensive demand of mercy; the sentiment was irresistible; it put to flight every harsh and hostile feeling; and orders were given to stop the carnage instantly.

A few years ago, a gentleman, somewhat too distinguished for scolding his huntsman in the field, was so incensed at a reply the fellow made, that he discharged him instantly on the spot. The huntsman, after delivering up his horse, got into a rabbit cart, and went away. The next morning, however, when the gentleman was going out, and had got to the end of the town with his hounds, the voice of the huntsman saluted his ear, who began hallooing the dogs, till not one of them would leave the tree where the man had perched himself. What could be done? The gentleman wished to hunt, but there was no hunting without dogs, and there was no stopping the man’s mouth; he was therefore at

Instances of recollection.

last obliged to make the best of a bad bargain, and take the fellow into his service again.

The recollection of the dog is remarkably strong, as will appear from the following anecdotes :

A dog, which had been the favourite of an elderly gentlewoman, some time after her death discovered the strongest emotions on the sight of her portrait, when taken down from the wall, and laid on the floor to be cleaned; though he had never been observed to notice the picture previous to this incident.

A comedian had a wig, which generally hung on a peg in one of his rooms. He one day lent the wig to a brother player, and some time after called on him. He had his dog with him, and the man happened to have the borrowed wig on his head. The actor staid a little while with his friend, but when he left him, the dog remained behind: for some time he stood looking full in the man's face, then making a sudden spring, leaped on his shoulders, seized the wig, and ran off with it as fast as he could; and, when he reached home, he endeavoured by jumping, to hang it up in its usual place.

"It was with pleasure," says the compiler of an interesting little work, "that I watched the motions of a grateful animal belonging to one of the workmen employed at Portsmouth dock-yard. This man had a large dog, who regularly

every day brought him his dinner upwards of a mile. When his wife had prepared the repast, she tied it up in a cloth, and put it in a hand-basket; then calling Trusty, desired him to be expeditious, and carry his master's dinner, and be sure not to stop by the way. The dog, who perfectly well understood his orders, immediately obeyed, by taking the handle of the basket in his mouth, and begun his journey. It was laughable to observe, that, when tired by the way, he would very cautiously set the basket on the ground; but by no means would suffer any person to come near it. When he had sufficiently rested himself, he again took up his load, and proceeded forward, until he came to the dock-gates. Here he was frequently obliged to stop, and wait with patience until the porter, or some other person, opened the door. His joy was then visible to every one—his pace increased, and with wagging tail, expressive of his pleasure, he ran to his master with the refreshment. The carresses were then mutual, and after receiving his morsel as a recompence for his fidelity, he was ordered home with the empty basket and plates, which he carried back with the greatest precision, to the high diversion of all the spectators."

A gentleman, who usually spent the winter months in the capital of North Britain, having gone with his family to pass the summer at his country seat, left the care of his town residence, together with a favourite house dog, to some

A grateful return.

servants, who were placed at board-wages. The dog soon found board-wages very short allowance; and to make up the deficiency, he had recourse to the kitchen of a friend of his master's, which in better days he had occasionally visited. By a hearty meal, which he received here daily, he was enabled to keep himself in good condition, till the return of his master's family to town on the approach of winter. Though now restored to the enjoyment of plenty at home, and standing in no need of foreign liberality, he did not forget that hospitable kitchen where he had found a resource in his adversity. A few days after, happening to saunter about the streets, he fell in with a duck, which, as he found it in no private pond, he probably concluded to be no private property. He snatched up the duck in his teeth, carried it to the kitchen where he had been so hospitably fed, laid it at the cook's feet, with many polite movements of his tail, and then scampered off with much seeming complacency at having given this testimony of his grateful sense of favours.

The following instance of incongruous adoption, however singular, is related upon respectable authority.

A farmer, living at Hainton, near Market Raison, in Lincolnshire, a few years since lost an ewe, the mother of two lambs. He chanced to have at the same time, a mastiff bitch, with a litter of puppies. Not having occasion for these

puppies, he drowned them, and putting the orphan lambs in their places, the bitch gave them suck, and brought them up with great paternal tenderness. About a twelvemonth after her nurselings had quitted her protection and society, for a mode of living more consonant to their nature, the same bitch heard the bleating of a lamb from a basket which a boy was carrying; she instantly flew at the basket, and having got it down, made several attempts to extricate the lamb from its confinement; but being unable to effect that, she showed it repeated marks of instinctive affection.

A French officer more remarkable for his birth and spirit than for his riches, had served the Venetian republic with great valour and fidelity several years, but had not met with preferment adequate by any means to his merits. One day he waited on the *illustrissimo*, whom he had often solicited in vain, but on whose friendship he had still some reliance. The reception he met with was cool and mortifying: the noble turned his back on the necessitous veteran, and left him to find his way to the street, through a suite of apartments magnificently furnished. He passed them, lost in thought, till casting his eyes on a sumptuous sideboard, where stood on a damask cloth, as a preparation for a splendid entertainment, an invaluable collection of Venice glass, polished and formed to the highest degree of perfection; he took hold of a corner of the

Remarkable abstinence of a dog.

linen, and turning to a faithful English dog, who always accompanied him, said, in a kind of absence of mind—"There, my poor old friend, you see how these scoundrels enjoy themselves, and yet see how we are treated!" The poor animal looked up in his master's face and wagged his tail, as if he understood him. The master walked on, but the mastiff, slackening his pace, and laying hold of the damask cloth with his teeth, at one hearty pull brought the whole side-board to the ground, and deprived the insolent noble of his favourite exhibition of splendor!

That dogs are capable of sustaining long and severe abstinence will appear from the following well authenticated anecdote:

In the year 1789, when preparations were making at St. Paul's for the reception of his majesty, a favourite bitch followed its master up the dark stairs of the dome: but here it was suddenly missing, and calling and whistling were to no purpose. Nine weeks after this, all but two days, some glaziers were at work in the cathedral, and heard amongst the timbers which support the dome a faint noise: thinking it might be some unfortunate being, they tied a rope round a boy, and let him down near to the place whence the sound came. At the bottom he found a dog lying on its side, the skeleton of another dog, and an old shoe half eaten. The humanity of the boy led him to rescue the animal from its miserable situation, and it was accordingly drawn

up, much emaciated, and scarcely able to stand. The workmen placed it in the porch of the church, to die or live, as might happen. This was about ten o'clock in the morning; some time after, the dog was seen endeavouring to cross the street at the top of Ludgate-hill, but its weakness was so great, that, unsupported by a wall, it could not accomplish it. The miserable appearance of the dog again excited the compassion of a boy, who carried it over. By the aid of the houses it was enabled to get to Fleet-market, and over two or three narrow crossings in its way to Holborn-bridge, and about eight o'clock in the evening it reached its master's house in Red Lion-street, Holborn, and laid itself down on the steps, having been ten hours in its journey from St. Paul's to that place. The animal was so much altered, the eyes being sunk in the head as to be scarce discernible, that the master would not encourage his old faithful companion, who, when lost, was supposed to weigh twenty pounds, and now only weighed three pounds fourteen ounces; the first indication it gave of knowing its master, was by wagging its tail when he mentioned the name Phillis; for a long time it was unable to eat or drink, and it was kept alive by the sustenance it received from its mistress, who used to feed it with a tea-spoon; at length it recovered. Should it be asked, how did this animal live near nine weeks without food? This was not the case. She was in whelp when lost, and

Curious extract from a letter.

doubtless ate her own offspring; the remains of another dog, killed by a similar fall, was likewise found, that most probably was converted by the survivor to the most urgent of all natural purposes; and when this repast was finished, the shoe succeeded, which was almost half devoured. What famine and a thousand accidents could not do, was effected a short time after by the wheels of a coach, which unfortunately went over her, and ended the existence of poor Phillis.

The following curious extract from a letter of Sir John Harrington to Prince Henry, son of King James I. will serve to corroborate our former assertions respecting the sagacity of the dog, and at the same time afford a specimen of English orthography in that reign.

“ May it please your highnesse to accepte in as good sorte what I nowe offer, as it hath done aforetyme; and I may saie *I pede fausto*; but, havinge goode reason to thinke, your highnesse had good will and likinge to read what others have tolde of my rare dogge, I will even give a brief historie of his good deedes and straunge feats; and herein will I not play the curr myselſe, but in goode soothe, relate what is no more nor lesse than bare verity. Although I mean not to disparage the deedes of Alexander's horse, I will match my dogge against him for good carriage, for, if he did not bear a great prince on his back, I am bold to saie he did often bear the sweet wordes of a greater princesse on his necke.

“ I did once relate to your highnesse after what sorte his tacklinge was wherewithe he did sojourn from my house at the Bathe to Greenwich palace, and deliver up to the cowrte there such matters as were entrusted to his care. This he hathe often done, and came safe to the Bathe, or my howse here at Kelstone, with goodlie returns from such nobilitie as were pleased to emploie him; nor was it ever tolde our ladie queene, that this messenger did ever biab ought concerning his high truste, as others have done in more special matters. Neither must it be forgotten as how he once was sente with two charges of sack wine from the Bathe to my howse, by my man Combe; and on his way the cordage did slackene, but my trustie bearer did now bear himselfe so wisely as to covertly hide one flasket in the rushes, and take the other in his teethe to the howse, after whiche he wente forthe, and returned with the other part of his burden to dinner: hereat yr highnesse may, perchance, marvele and doubte, but we have livinge testimonie of those who wroughte in the fieldes, and espiede his worke, and now live to tell they did muche longe to plaie the dogge and give stowage to the wine themselves; but they did refrain, and watchede the passinge of this whole businesse.

“ I neede not saie how muche I did once grieve at missinge this dogge, for, on my journie towardes Londone, some idle pastimers did divertte themselves with huntinge mallards in a

ponde, and conveyed him to the Spanish Ambassador's, where, in a happie houre, after six weekes, I did heare of him; but suche was the cowrte he did pay to the don, that he was no lesse in good likinge there then at home. Nor did the householde listen to my claim, or challenge, till I rested my suite on the dogge's own proofes, and made him perform such feats before the nobles assembled, as put it past doubt that I was his master. I did send him to the hall in the time of dinner, and made him bringe thence a pheasant out of the dish, which created much mirth; but much more when he returnede at my commandment to the table again, and put it again in the same cover. Herewith the companie was well content to allow me my claim, and we bothe were well content to accepte it, and came homewardes. I could dwell more on this matter, but *jubes renovare dolorem*; I will now saie in what manner he died: as we traveld towardes the Bathe, he leaped on my horse's necke, and was more earneste in fawninge and courtinge my notice, than what I had observed for some time backe; and, after my chidinge his disturbinge my passinge forwardes, he gave me some glances of such affection, as moved me to cajole him; but, alas! he crept suddenly into a thorny brake, and died in a short time. Thus I have strove to rehearse such of his deedes as maie suggest much more to yr royal highnesse thought of this dogge. But, havinge said so much of

him in prose, I will say somewhat too in verse, as you may finde hereafter. Now let Ulysses praise his dogge Argus, or Tobite be led by that dogge whose name doth not appear; yet could I say such things of my *Bungey*, for so was he styled, as might shame them both, either for good faith, clear wit, or wonderful deedes; to say no more than I have said, of his bearing letters to Londone and Greenwich, more than an hundred miles. As I doubt not but your highnesse would love my dogge, if not my selfe; I have been thus tedious in his storie; and again sai, that of all the dogges near your father's courte, not one hathe more love, more diligence to please, or less pay for pleasinge, than him I write of; for verily a bone woulde contente my servante, when some expecte greater matters, or will knavishly find oute a motion of contention."

Two gentlemen, who kept their fox-hounds at Whinnick, in Northamptonshire, used sometimes to go for a fortnight's hunting to Lutterworth, in Leicestershire. On one of these expeditions, it was judged prudent to leave a favourite hound, called Dancer, at home; their first day's hunting from Lutterworth produced an extraordinary chase, in which both the hounds and horses were so completely tired, that it was deemed expedient to stop that night at Leicester. When they returned the next day to Lutterworth, they were informed that a hound, of a certain descrip-

Friendship of canine contraction.

tion, from which it was known to be Dancer, came thither soon after their going out the preceding morning, that he had waited quietly till towards the evening, but then began to show some signs of impatience, and in the morning disappeared. It was of course concluded, that the animal being disappointed in finding his companions where he expected, had returned to the kennel at Whinnick; but what was the surprise and concern of his master, when, on returning home, he learnt that he had come back from Lutterworth, staid one day, and then departed again! Every enquiry was made, but in vain; till at length it was discovered, that not finding the pack either at Lutterworth or at Whinnick, Dancer had proceeded into Warwickshire, to a house, where the hounds had been for a week some months before.

The following is a singular instance of friendship of canine contraction.

A clergyman, in the city, was possessed of a dog, which had a custom of going every morning during the summer season to the New River, and plunging into the water; after which immersion, he very orderly trotted home again. This peculiarity attracted the attention of another clergyman, who, in his morning walks, had frequently observed the fact with no small entertainment. Nor did he escape the notice of the dog; for honest Rover, finding he had crept into some little favour with the parson, resolved,

as will appear, to cultivate a farther acquaintance.

Upon one of these occasions, instead of making the best of his way home, he made bold to arrest our sable friend, by griping the skirt of his coat, rather sportively than with any vicious or sanguinary intention. But yet he seemed unwilling to relinquish his hold. The singularity of the circumstance, as may be imagined, excited the curiosity of his prisoner, who wisely thinking it would be to no purpose to remonstrate, put himself under the conduct of his canine companion, and walked on, musing on the adventure, and wondering, at the same time, what would be the event.

Through many bye-ways and windings did they travel, till at length Rover released his captive, and made a *set*, which was saying, as plain as a dog could say, that their journey was at an end. So in fact it was; and now the last act of civility remained to be performed on the part of the dog, of which he acquitted himself very handsomely, never losing sight of his charge until he had introduced him to his master; the *denouement* was not inconsistent with the whole tenor of the dog's deportment; the clergymen having thus contracted an intimacy and ever afterwards lived in habits of friendship.

The author of the *Tableaux Typographiques de la Suisse*, in his Description of the Alps and Glaciers, relates the following circumstance in

A fortunate deliverance.

proof of the amiable sagacity of the dog.—The chevalier Gaspard de Brandenburg was buried, together with his servant, by an avalanche, as they were crossing the mountain of St. Gothard, in the neighbourhood of Airolo. His dog, who had escaped the accident, did not quit the spot where he had lost his master. Happily this was not far from a convent. The faithful animal scratched the snow, and howled for a long time with all his strength; then ran to the convent, returned and ran back again. Struck by his perseverance, the people of the house followed him next morning: he led them directly to the spot where he had scratched the snow; and the chevalier and his domestic, after thirty-six hours passed beneath it, were drawn out safe and well. They had distinctly heard every bark of the dog, and all the discourse of their deliverers. Sensible of the attachment of this fine animal, to which he owed his life, he ordered, on his death, that he should be represented on his tomb with his dear dog. At Zong, in the church of St. Oswald, they still show the tomb and the effigy of this magistrate, represented with a dog at his feet.

The following anecdote may be added to that long list of honourable examples, which testify the virtues of the canine race; it is founded on fact, and is transcribed, from a writer of respectability.

The gamekeeper of the Rev. Mr. Corsellis had reared a spaniel, which was his constant at-

tendant, both by night and day: whenever old Daniel appeared, Dash was close beside him, and the dog was of infinite use in his nocturnal excursions. The game, at that season, he never regarded, although in the day time no spaniel would find it in a better style, or in greater quantity; but, if at night a strange foot had entered any of the coverts, he informed his master, by a significant whine, that the enemy were abroad; and many poachers have been detected and caught from this singular intelligence. After many years friendly connection, old Daniel was afflicted with a consumption, which terminated in his death: whilst the slow but fatal progress of his disorder allowed him to crawl about, Dash, as usual, followed his footsteps, and when nature was still further exhausted, and he took to his bed, at the foot of it unwearily attended the faithful animal; and when he died, the dog would not quit the body, but laid upon the bed by its side. It was with difficulty he was tempted to take any food; and although after the funeral he was taken to the hall, and caressed with all the tenderness which so fond an attachment naturally excited, he took every opportunity to steal back to the room in the cottage, where his old master breathed his last; here he would remain for hours, and from thence daily visited his grave; but at the end of fourteen days, notwithstanding every kindness and attention shown him, he died literally broken-hearted.

Lines by Mr. Pratt.

I shall close this account of the canine tribe
with the following beautiful lines extracted from
Mr. Pratt's Gleanings.

" How oft some hero of the canine kind,
A Cæsar, "guiltless of his country's blood;"
A blameless Pompey, tho' for power design'd,
Intrepid champion of the oppress'd has stood!

Now snatch'd a friend from the assassin's steel,
From raging fire, or from the whelming wave;
Now taught the haughty rational to feel,
The bold to fear, the coward to be brave.

Thou animal sublime, we human call,
Who deem'st these attributes but instinct's sway,
Thyself sole-reas'ning tyrant of the ball,
The rest thy slaves, to tremble and obey.

Virtues in thee are instincts in the brute;
Yet in these instincts, proud one! may'st thou find
Plain honest arguments, which oft confute
The subt'lest maxims of thy soaring mind.

Art thou in doubt, and wouldst thou truly know,
How far those virtuous instincts may extend?
Cæsar and Pompey at thy feet can show
Th' unmeasur'd duties of a faithful friend.

Hast thou e'er follow'd friend with steps more true,
With nobler courage hast thou met the foe?
And if that friend in anger left thy view,
Hast thou so felt the reconciling glow?

Or if thou hast, O tell me! hast thou borne
Insult unmerited, stripes undeserv'd?
And didst thou both in meek submission mourn,
As if thou only hadst from duty swerv'd!

Lines by Mr. Pratt.

Or, if new proofs thy tyranny demands,
Would'st thou see love o'er all these stripes prevail,
Lo! the poor dog still licks thy barb'rous hands,
When strength and nature, all but fondness fail.

Of all the boasted conquests thou hast made,
By flood or field, the gentlest and the best
Is in the dog, the generous dog display'd,
For ah! what virtues glow within his breast!

Thro' life the same, in sunshine and in storms,
At once his lord's protector and his guide,
Shapes to his wishes, to his wants conforms,
His slave, his friend, his pastime, and his pride.

Excell'd, perchance, in dignity and grace,
Or on the peaceful, or th' embattled plain,
Yet, oh! what attributes supply their place,
Which nor provoke the spur nor ask the rein?

Lo! while the master sleeps he takes his rounds,
His master's happiness his sole delight;
A wakeful sentinel, whose watch-bark sounds
To awe the rude disturbers of the night.

Monarch himself, meanwhile, of some fair flock,
A meek, mild people, who his rule obey,
And while the shepherd slumbers on the rock,
Or in the vale, nor sheep, nor lamb, shall stray.

Yes, mighty lord of all that move below,
Without thy dog, how vain the temper'd steel,
Thy fate-wing'd bullet, and thy plastic bow,
And all thy arts to conquer and to kill.

Without his aid, say, how would'st thou oppose
The noontide ruffian, and the midnight thief?
Enthrall'd on every side by dang'rous foes,
Who, but thy faithful dog could bring relief?

Description.

But would'st thou see an instance yet more dear,
A touch more rare—thy dog may still afford
The example high—go read it on the bier,
If chance some canine friend survive his lord.

Awhile survives his latest dues to pay,
Beyond the grave his gratitude to prove,
Mourn out his life in slow but sure decay,
Martyr sublime of friendship and of love!

From him who drives the pilferer from the gate,
To him who leads the eyeless to the door,
All prove without the dog, how weak the great,
And with that constant friend how strong the poor!

Then grateful own the dog's unrivall'd claim,
A claim not e'en the lion can dispute:
The proud usurper of another's fame,
The gen'rous dog shall be the kingly brute.

THE WILD CAT.

THIS animal, from which all the varieties of the domestic cat have proceeded, inhabits both Europe and Asia, and is sometimes found in the woody and more unfrequented parts of our own island. The head and limbs are larger than those of the domestic cat; and the colour is a pale yellowish-grey, with dusky stripes, those on the back running lengthwise, and those on the sides transversely and in a curved direction. The tail is shorter than in the domestic kinds, and is annulated with dusky rings. The female breeds in hollow trees, and produces four young at a litter.

Conflict between a man and a wild cat.

Wild cats are sometimes taken in traps, and sometimes by shooting: in the latter mode it is dangerous to merely wound them; as they are frequently known to turn upon their assailant, and their strength is so great as to render them no despicable enemy. At the village of Barnboro', in Yorkshire, there is a tradition extant of a serious conflict that once took place between a man and a wild cat. The inhabitants assert, that the fight commenced in an adjacent wood, and that it was continued from thence to the porch of the church, where it ended fatally to both combatants, for each died of the wounds received. A rude painting in the church commemorates the event; and the red tinge of some of the stones, (though probably natural) has been construed into bloody stains which all the soap and water hitherto used have been unable to efface.

In Jamaica, the domestic cat is very apt to become wild; from the quantity of food, at all seasons to be found in the woods and mountains: to remedy this inconvenience, the country people frequently split or cut off the animal's ears, the more to expose those tender organs to the rain or dews; and this is said to be generally effectual. In England also domestic cats will sometimes become wild; and when this occurs, they prove themselves mortal foes to pheasants at roost, and become more injurious to the diversion of the sportsman than most species of naturally wild vermin. In a large cover belonging

Wild cats formerly hunted in Britain.

to Sir H. St. John Mildmay, sixteen of these animals were killed by a pack of fox-hounds in four days drawing the cover for foxes. They are generally caught in traps, having the bait sprinkled with valerian.

Wild cats were formerly reckoned among the British beasts of chase; as appears by a charter of Richard II. to the abbot of Peterborough, granting him permission to hunt the hare, fox, and wild cat. The fur was also used in lining of robes; but it does not seem to have been accounted of a luxurious kind; as it was ordained that no abbess or nun should use more costly apparel than such as was made of lambs or cats skins.

THE DOMESTIC CAT.

THE manners and dispositions of this quadruped seem to be entirely changed by education; and although it does not exhibit the affectionate attachment of the dog, it is not destitute of either gentleness or gratitude. A remarkable instance of this is related in Mr. Pennant's Account of London. Henry Wriothesly, earl of Southampton, the friend and companion of the earl of Essex in his fatal insurrection, having been some time confined in the Tower, was one day surprised by a visit from his favourite cat; which, is said to have reached its master by descending

Instance of sagacity.

the chimney of his apartment. In proof of the sagacity of these animals, the Rev. Mr. Bingley relates the following anecdote: "A friend of mine possessed a cat and a dog, which, not being able to live together in peace, had several contentious struggles for the mastery; and in the end, the dog so completely prevailed, that the cat was driven away, and forced to seek for shelter elsewhere. Several months elapsed, during which the dog alone possessed the house. At length, however, he was poisoned by a female servant, whose nocturnal visitors he had too often betrayed; and was soon afterwards carried out lifeless into the court before the door. The cat, from a neighbouring roof, was observed to watch the motions of several persons who went up to look at him; and when all were retired, he descended, and crept, with some degree of caution, into the place. He soon ventured to approach; and, after having frequently patted the dog with his paw, appeared perfectly sensible that his late quarrelsome companion could no more insult him; and from that time he quietly returned to his former residence and habits."

"A cat," says Dr. Smellie, "frequented a closet, the door to which was fastened by a common iron latch. A window was situated near the door. When the door was shut, the cat gave herself no uneasiness. But as soon as she was tired of her confinement, she mounted on the sole of the window, and with her paws dexterously lifted the

Detection of murderers.

latch and came out. This practice she continued for years."

In the summer of 1800, a physician of Lyons was requested to enquire into a murder that had been committed on a woman of that city. He accordingly went to the residence of the deceased, where he found her extended lifeless on the floor and weltering in her blood. A large white cat was mounted on the cornice of a cupboard, at the farther end of the apartment, where he seemed to have taken refuge. He sat motionless; with his eyes fixed on the corse, and his attitude and looks expressing horror and affright. The following morning, he was found in the same station and attitude; and when the room was filled with officers of justice, neither the clattering of the soldiers' arms, nor the loud conversation of the company, could in the least degree divert his attention. As soon, however, as the suspected persons were brought in, his eyes glared with increased fury; his hair bristled; he darted into the middle of the apartment, where he stopped for a moment to gaze at them; and then precipitately retreated under the bed. The countenances of the assassins were disconcerted; and they now, for the first time during the whole course of the horrid business, felt their atrocious audacity forsake them.

The assiduity with which the female cat attends her young, and the pleasure which she seems to take in all their playful tricks, afford a

Squirrels nourished by a cat.

very pleasing entertainment to every attentive observer. She has also been known not only to nurse with tenderness the young of different individuals of her own species, but even those of other kinds of animals.

“A boy,” observes Mr. White, (in his *Natural History of Selborne*,) “had taken three young squirrels in their nest. These small creatures he put under a cat who had lately lost her kittens; and found that she nursed and suckled them with the same assiduity and affection as if they had been her own progeny. So many persons went to see the little squirrels suckled by a cat, that the foster-mother became jealous of her charge, and in pain for their safety; and therefore concealed them over the ceiling, where one died. This circumstance evinced her affection for these foundlings, and that she supposed the squirrels to be her own young.”

A more remarkable instance, however, occurred some years ago in the house of a Mr. Greenfield, of Maryland. A cat had kittens, to which she frequently carried mice and other small animals for food; and among the rest she is supposed to have carried a young rat. The kittens, probably not being hungry, played with it; and when the cat gave suck to them, the rat likewise sucked her. This having been observed by some of the servants, Mr. Greenfield had the kittens and rat brought down stairs, and put on the floor; and

A pleasing experiment.

in carrying them off, the cat was remarked to convey away the young rat as tenderly as she did any of the kittens. This experiment was repeated as often as any company came to the house, till great numbers had become eye-witnesses of the preternatural affection.

It is but seldom that cats are, like the dog, attached to our persons: all their attachment seeming to be confined to the houses where they have been brought up. Instances are very common of cats returning, of their own accord, to the place whence they have been carried; though at the distance of several miles, and even across rivers where they could not possibly have had any knowledge of the road or the direction that would lead them to it.

“No experiment,” says an intelligent writer, “can be more beautiful than that of setting a kitten for the first time before a looking-glass. The animal appears surprised and pleased with the resemblance, and makes several attempts at touching its new acquaintance; and, at length, finding its efforts fruitless, it looks behind the glass, and appears highly astonished at the absence of the figure. It again views itself, and tries to touch the image with its foot; suddenly looking at intervals behind the glass. It then becomes more accurate in its observations; and begins, as it were, to make experiments, by stretching out its paw in different directions; and when it finds that these motions are answered in every respect by the figure in the glass, it

seems, at length, to be convinced of the real nature of the image."

It is generally supposed, that cats can see in the dark. This is not absolutely the case; but they can certainly see with much less light than most other quadrupeds, owing to the peculiar structure of their eyes, the pupils of which are capable of being contracted or dilated in proportion to the degree of light by which they are affected. The pupil of the eye during the day is perpetually contracted, and it is with difficulty that it can see by a strong light: but in the twilight the pupil resumes its natural roundness, the animal enjoys perfect vision, and embraces the favourable opportunity of discovering and seizing its prey.

The fur of this animal being generally clean and dry, readily yields electric sparks when rubbed; and if a clean and perfectly dry cat be placed, in frosty weather, on a stool with glass feet or insulated by any other means, and rubbed for a short time in contact with the wire of a coated vial, the vial by this means will become effectually charged.

In former times cats were held in so great estimation in Britain, that their preservation was considered of the utmost importance. Hence, in the reign of Howel the Good, Prince of Wales, who died A. D. 948, laws were made, to fix the prices of different animals; among which the cat was included, as being, at that early period, of

great importance, on account of its scarcity and utility. The price of a kitten before it could see, was fixed at one penny; till proof could be given of its having caught a mouse, two-pence; after which it was rated at four-pence;—a great sum in those days, when the value of specie was extremely high. It was likewise required, that the animal should be perfect in its senses of hearing and seeing, should be a good mouser, have its claws whole, and, if a female, be a careful nurse. If it failed in any of these qualifications, the seller was to forfeit to the buyer the third part of its value. If any one should steal or kill the cat that guarded the prince's granary, the offender was to forfeit either a milch cow, with her fleece, and lamb; or as much wheat as, when poured on the cat suspended by its tail (its head touching the floor), would form a heap high enough to cover the tip of the tail.

M. Baumgarten inform us, that when he was at Damascus, he saw there a kind of hospital for cats: the house in which they were kept was very large, walled round, and was said to be quite full of them. On enquiring into the origin of this singular institution, he was told, that Mahomet, when he once lived there, brought with him a cat, which he kept in the sleeve of his gown, and carefully fed with his own hands. His followers in this place, therefore, ever afterwards paid a superstitious respect to these animals; and supported them in this manner by

public alms, which were very adequate to the purpose. The patience, vigilance, cleanliness, and utility of the cat, have also obtained for it the highest degree of protection in the Oriental mythology; so far indeed, that it is esteemed the noblest species of its tribe.

The following curious fact in the natural history of this animal, is related by Dr. Anderson, in his *Recreations in Agriculture*:—A cat belonging to Dr. Coventry, the ingenious professor of agriculture in Edinburgh, which had no blemish at its birth, accidentally lost its tail when it was young. It had several litters of kittens; and in every one of these there was one or more that wanted the tail, either wholly or in part.

It is pretty generally acknowledged, that the dog often reaches to the point of human sagacity: the following instance of maternal courage and affection in a cat is no less deserving of admiration.

A cat, who had a numerous brood of kittens, one sunny day in spring, encouraged her little ones to frolic in the vernal beams of noon, about the stable-door; while she was joining them in a thousand sportive tricks and gambols, they were discovered by a large hawk, who was sailing above the barn-yard in expectation of prey; and in a moment, swift as lightning, darted upon one of the kittens, and had as quickly borne it off, but for the courageous mother, who seeing the danger of her offspring, flew on the common ene-

my, who, to defend itself, let fall the prize; the battle presently became seemingly dreadful to both parties; for the hawk, by the power of his wings, the sharpness of his talons, and the keenness of his beak, had, for a while, the advantage, cruelly lacerating the poor cat, and had actually deprived her of one eye in the conflict; but puss, no way daunted at the accident, strove with all her cunning and agility for her little ones, till she had broken the wing of her adversary: in this state she got him more within the power of her claws, the hawk still defending himself, apparently with additional vigour, and the fight continued with equal fury on the side of grimalkin, to the great entertainment of many spectators. At length victory seemed to favour the nearly exhausted mother, and she availed herself of the advantage; for, by an instantaneous exertion she laid the hawk motionless beneath her feet, and, as if exulting in the victory, tore off the head of the vanquished tyrant; and immediately, disregarding the loss of her eye, ran to the bleeding kitten, licked the wounds inflicted by the hawk's talons in its tender sides, purring while she caressed her liberated offspring, with the same maternal affection as if no danger had assailed them, or their affectionate parent.

“ Ah! wanton cruelty, thine hand withhold,
And learn to pity from the tale that's told:
Caress Felina, for in her we find
A grand example to instruct mankind—
Who leaves her young unguarded, or unfed,
Has far less virtue than this quadruped.”

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CAT.

Engraved by J. G. B. for J. G. B. London.

Catching fish

A friend of Doctor Darwin's saw a cat catch a trout, by darting upon it in a deep clear water, at the mill at Weaford, near Litchfield. The animal belonged to a Mr. Stanley; who had frequently seen her catch fish in the same manner in the summer, when the mill-pool was drawn so low that the fish could be seen. Other cats have been known to take fish in shallow water, as they stood on the bank. This may probably be a natural act of taking prey, which acquired delicacy by domestication, has, in general, prevented cats from using, though their desire of eating fish continues in its original strength. Our artist has illustrated the above facts by the annexed engraving.

We shall close this subject with Gray's justly admired Verses on the death of a favourite cat; said to have been accidentally drowned in a tub of gold fishes:

" 'Twas on a lofty vase's side,
Where China's gayest art had dy'd
The azure flow'rs that blow;
Demurest of the tabby kind,
The pensive Selima reclin'd,
Gaz'd on the lake below.

Her conscious tail her joy declar'd;
The fair round face, the snowy beard,
The velvet of her paws;
Her coat, that with the tortoise vies,
Her ears of jet, and em'rald eyes,
She saw; and purr'd applause.

Still had she gaz'd; but midst the tide
Two angel forms were seen to glide,
The genii of the stream;

 Verses on the death of a cat.

Their scaly armour's Tyrian hue,
Through richest purple to the view,
Betray'd a golden gleam.

The hapless nymph with wonder saw ;
A whisker first, and then a claw,
With many an ardent wish,
She stretch'd, in vain, to reach the prize :
What female heart can gold despise ?
What cat's averse to fish ?

Presumptuous maid ! with looks intent,
Again she stretch'd, again she bent,
Nor knew the gulf between :
'Malignant fate sat by and smil'd
The slipp'ry verge her feet beguil'd—
She tumbled headlong in.

Eight times emerging from the flood,
She mew'd to ev'ry wat'ry god,
Some speedy aid to send.
No dolphin came, no nereid stirr'd,
Nor cruel Tom, nor Susan heard :—
A fav'rite has no friend !

From hence, ye beauties ! undeceiv'd,
Know, one false step is ne'er retriev'd,
And be with caution bold.
Not all that tempts your wand'ring eyes,
And heedless hearts, is lawful prize ;
Nor all that glitters gold."

"Young kittens," says Goldsmith, "are very playful and amusing ; but their sport soon turns into malice, and even from the beginning they show a disposition to cruelty ; they often look wistfully towards a cage ; sit sentinels at the mouth of a mouse-hole ; and, in a short time, become

Natural malignity.

more expert hunters than if they had received the instructions of art. I have seen one of them positively watch a whole day, until the mouse appeared, and continue quite motionless till it came within reach; and then seize it with a jump. Of all the marks by which the cat discovers its natural malignity, that of playing and sporting with its little captive before killing it, is the most flagrant."

Mr. Browne informs us, that the negroes consider the flesh of these animals as a great delicacy.

THE ANGORA CAT.

THE Angora cat is considerably larger than the domestic species, and is covered with remarkably long hair. The colour is generally dun, or white. When M. Sonnini was in Egypt, he had one of them in his possession for a long time. It was entirely covered with long silky hairs: its tail formed a magnificent plume; which the animal elevated, at pleasure, over its body. Not one spot, nor a single dark shade, tarnished the dazzling whiteness of its coat. Its nose and lips were of a delicate rose colour. Two large eyes sparkled in its round head; one of which was a light yellow, and the other a fine blue.

This beautiful animal had even more loveliness

of manners, than grace in its attitude and movements. With the physiognomy of goodness, she possessed a gentleness truly interesting. How ill soever any one used her, she never attempted to advance her claws from their sheath. Sensible to kindness, she licked the hand which caressed; and even that which tormented her. On a journey, she reposed tranquilly on the knees of any of the company, for there was no occasion to confine her; and if our author; or some other person whom she knew, were present, no noise whatever gave her the least disturbance.

In Sonnini's solitary moments, she chiefly kept by his side; she interrupted him frequently in the midst of his labours or meditations, by little affecting caresses, and generally followed him in his walks. During his absence, she sought and called for him incessantly, with the utmost inquietude: and, if it were long before he re-appeared; she would quit his apartment, and attach herself to the person of the house where he lived; for whom, next to himself, she entertained the greatest affection. She recognised his voice at a distance; and seemed on each fresh meeting with him, to feel increased satisfaction. Her gait was frank, and her look as gentle as her character. She possessed, in a word, the disposition of the most amiable dog, beneath the brilliant fur of a cat.

"This animal," says M. Sonnini, "was my principal amusement for several years. How was

the expression of her attachment depicted upon her countenance! How many times have her tender caresses made me forget my troubles, and consoled me in my misfortunes! My beautiful and interesting companion, however, at length perished. After several days of suffering, during which I never forsook her, her eyes, constantly fixed on me, were at length, extinguished; and her loss rent my heart with sorrow."

THE TIGER CAT.

THIS animal is considerably larger than the domestic cat; and more elegant in its general conformation and appearance. The colour is a bright tawny; marked on the back with oblong black streaks, and in the other parts with blotches of the same. A skin, measured by Mr. Pennant, was found to be three feet in length from the nose to the tail.

In their native mountains at the Cape of Good Hope, these quadrupeds are very destructive to rabbits, young antelopes, lambs, and even to all the different species of birds. In disposition, however, they are not so fierce as the generality of their tribe; and when taken, they are easily rendered tame: though Labat has asserted, that their appearance bespeaks cruelty, and their eyes a great degree of ferocity.

Tiger cat domesticated.

When Dr. Forster and his son touched at the Cape, in the year 1795, one of these animals was offered to him for sale. But from its having a broken leg, he refused it, under the apprehension that it would not be able to bear a passage to Europe. It was brought in a basket to his apartment, where he kept it above twenty-four hours; and consequently had an opportunity, not only of describing it, but in some measure, of observing its manners and economy. These seemed perfectly analogous to those of our domestic cats. It ate raw fresh meat, and appeared to attach itself to its feeders and benefactors. In its disposition it was gentle, and had been rendered perfectly tame. After Dr. Forster had fed it a few times, it followed him like a tame cat. It seemed fond of being stroked and caressed; rubbed its head and back against his clothes, and seemed very desirous of being noticed. It also purred, as our domestic cats do when they are pleased. At this time it was about nine months old, and had been taken when quite young in the woods.

CHAP. V.

“ While the *rat* is on the scout
And the mouse with curious snout,
With what vermin else infest
Ev’ry dish, and spoil the best;
Frisking thus before the fire,
Thou hast all thine heart’s desire,”

COWPER’S ADDRESS TO THE CRICKET.

THE RAT.

IT has been justly observed of this quadruped, that, notwithstanding its weak and contemptible appearance, it possesses properties which render it a more formidable enemy to mankind than even those animals which are endued with the greatest strength, and most rapacious dispositions.

There are two kinds of these animals known in Great Britain; the black rat, which was formerly universally diffused, and the brown or Norwegian rat; which has greatly diminished the number of the others; but has itself multi-

plied so excessively, and is so very strong and voracious, as to form no acceptable substitute.

The length of this animal is about nine inches; the colour of the head and the upper part of the body is of a light brown, mixed with tawny; the throat and belly are of a dirty white, inclining to grey; and the legs are of a dirty flesh colour. The eyes are large and black; the tail is covered with minute dusky scales, mixed with a few short hairs; and the general figure is disgusting.

In Ireland these rats have very nearly destroyed the whole race of frogs; which the inhabitants were somewhat anxious to preserve, in order to clear their fields of insects, and render their waters more salubrious. While the frogs continued in great numbers, the rats also multiplied; but since the latter are deprived of this considerable part of their subsistence, they also are become much less numerous.

During summer, they reside chiefly in holes on the banks of rivers, ponds, and ditches; but on the approach of winter they visit the farm-houses, and enter the corn-ricks and barns, where they devour much of the corn, and damage considerably more than they consume. They have haunts in the walls and about the floors of old houses, where they frequently destroy the furniture; and they have even been known to gnaw the extremities of infants while asleep. They are also excessively destructive to eggs, poultry,

Amazing fecundity.

pigeons, rabbits, and game of every description. They swim with ease, dive with great celerity, and not unfrequently prey upon fish.

Goldsmith remarks, that they frequently produce from ten to fifteen at a time, and usually bring forth thrice a year. Such, indeed, is their amazing fecundity, that they would soon overrun the whole country, and render all our attempts to destroy them fruitless, had they no enemies to lessen their numbers. But this baneful increase is happily counteracted, not only by numerous foes among the other animals, but by their destroying and eating each other. The same insatiable appetite that impels them to indiscriminate carnage, also incites the strongest to devour the weakest, even of their own kind; and a large male rat is as much dreaded by its own species, as the most formidable enemy.

The weasel is in perpetual enmity with these animals; and will pursue them into their holes, and fight with them there. This little creature endeavours to fix itself on their bodies, and suck their blood; which it very often effects. They are, however, so bold as to attack a small dog, seize him by the mouth, and, holding fast there, they inflict a wound very difficult to be healed.

In the Isle of France, rats have been found in such prodigious swarms, that it is said the place was completely abandoned by the Dutch on account of their numbers. In some of the houses

they are so numerous, that thirty thousand have been known to have been killed in a year. They have subterraneous hoards both of corn and fruit; and frequently climb up the trees to devour the young birds. At sun-set they may be seen running about in all directions; and in a single night they will frequently commit such devastation, that a French traveller says, he has seen a field of maize, in which they had not left a single ear remaining.

M. de St. Pierre informs us, that on the return of the Valiant man of War from the Havannah, in the year 1766, its rats had increased to such a degree, that they destroyed a hundred weight of biscuit daily. The ship was at length smoked between decks, in order to suffocate them: and six hampers were, for some time, filled every day, with the rats that had thus been killed.

A gentleman travelling through Mecklenburg, about thirty years ago, was witness to a very singular circumstance in the post-house at New Hargard. After dinner, the landlord placed on the floor a large dish of soup, and gave a loud whistle. Immediately there came into the room a mastiff, a fine Angora cat, an old raven, and a remarkably large rat with a bell about its neck. They all four went to the dish, and, without disturbing each other, fed together; after which the dog, cat, and rat lay before the fire, while the raven hopped about the room. The land-

Absurd notion of the Egyptians.

lord, after accounting for the familiarity which existed among these animals, informed his guest that the rat was the most useful of the four; for the noise he made had completely freed the house from the rats and mice with which it was previously infested.

In Egypt, as soon as the river Nile, after having fertilized the land, leaves it free for cultivation, multitudes of rats and mice are seen to issue in succession from the moistened soil. Hence the Egyptians believe that they are generated from the earth itself; and some of them will assert with the utmost effrontery, that they have seen the animals in their formation; one half of their bodies flesh, and the other half mud.

Some of the Japanese tame these rats, and teach them to perform many entertaining tricks; and, thus instructed, they are exhibited as a show for the diversion of the populace.

THE MUSK RAT.

THE musk rat is about the size of a small rabbit. Its head is thick and short, somewhat resembling that of the water-rat. The eyes are large; the ears short, rounded, and covered both inside and outside with hair. The fur is soft, glossy, and of a reddish-brown colour; and beneath this is a much finer fur, or thick down, which is very useful in the manufacture of hats.

Description—Habitations.

The tail is flattened laterally, and covered with scales.

In the general form of their body, as well as in many of their habits, these animals bear a considerable resemblance to the beaver. They construct their habitation of dry plants, but particularly of reeds, cement it with clay, and cover it with a sort of dome. At the bottom and sides of this there are several pipes, through which they pass in search of food; for they lay up no provisions for winter. They have also subterraneous passages, into which they retreat whenever their houses are attacked.

These habitations, which are intended only for the winter, are rebuilt annually. At the approach of this season they begin to construct them, as places of retirement from the inclemencies of the weather. Several families occupy the same dwelling, which is frequently covered under a depth of eight or ten feet of snow and ice; so that they must lead a cold, gloomy, and necessitous life till the return of spring.

During the summer they wander about, generally in pairs, feeding voraciously on herbs and roots. They then become extremely fat, and acquire a strong musky smell; whence they have their specific name. They walk and run in an awkward manner, like the beaver; and swim very indifferently, their feet being unfurnished with webs.

The musk rats, as well as the beavers, seem to

have their drones or terriers, which are at no trouble in the common operation of building. These burrow like water-rats, in banks adjacent to lakes, rivers, and ditches; and often do considerable damage by admitting the water through the embankments of meadows.

These animals are found in America, from Hudson's Bay as far south as Carolina.

THE ECONOMIC RAT.

THE length of this animal is about four inches, exclusive of the tail, which measures one inch. The limbs are strong; the ears short, naked, and almost hidden beneath the fur of the head. The general colour is tawny, somewhat whiter beneath than on the back.

Economic rats are found in various parts of Siberia and Kamtschatka; where they make their burrows, with the utmost skill, immediately below the surface of a soft turfy soil. They form a low chamber of a flattish arched form, about a foot in diameter, to which they sometimes add twenty or thirty small passages or entrances. Near the chamber they frequently construct other caverns, in which they deposit their stores of plants, which they gather in summer, and bring home; and even, at times, they bring them out of their cells to give them a more thorough

Migrations.

drying in the sun. They associate in pairs; and except during the summer, when the male leads a solitary life in the woods, the male and female commonly sleep in the same nest.

The migrations of these quadrupeds have been noticed both by Dr. Grieve and Mr. Pennaut; but neither of them have attempted to explain the cause. "In the spring," says the former writer, "they assemble in amazing numbers, and proceed in a direct course westward; swimming with the utmost intrepidity over rivers, lakes, and even arms of the sea. Many are drowned, and many destroyed by water-fowl or rapacious fish. Those that escape, on emerging from the water, rest awhile to bask, dry their fur, and refresh themselves. The Kamtschadales, who have a kind of superstitious veneration for these little animals, whenever they find any of them thrown upon the banks of the rivers, weak and exhausted, render them every possible assistance. As soon as they have crossed the river Penschinska, at the head of the gulf of the same name, they turn in a south-westerly direction; and about the middle of July, generally reach the rivers Ochotska and Judoma—a distance of about a thousand miles! The flocks are also so numerous, that travellers have sometimes waited about two hours for them to pass. The retirement of these animals is considered by the Kamtschadales as a serious misfortune; but their return occasions the

Crossing rivers.

utmost joy and festivity, a successful chase and fishery being always considered as its certain consequence.

Kerr informs us, that the Kamtschadales never destroy the hoards of these rats. Sometimes, indeed, they take away part of their store; but, in return for this, they invariably leave some caviare, or other food, to support them in its stead.

The manner in which the economic rats, in their foraging excursions, cross the rivers of Iceland, is thus described by Mr. Olaffen. "The party, consisting of from six to ten, select a flat piece of dried cow-dung; on which they place the berries they have collected, in a heap in the middle. Then, with their united force, drawing it to the water's edge, they launch it, and embark; placing themselves round the heap, with their heads joined over it, and their backs to the water, their tails pendent in the stream and serving the purpose of rudders."

THE HAMSTER.

THIS quadruped is about the size of a large water-rat; but somewhat thicker. The colour of the head and back is a reddish brown, somewhat like that of a hare. The throat is white, and on each side of the body there are three large oval white spots. On each side of the

Habitations.

mouth are two receptacles for food: which, when empty, are so far contracted, as not to appear externally; but when filled, they resemble a pair of tumid bladders, with a smooth veiny surface, which is concealed by the fur of the cheeks. The ears are large, and the tail short and almost naked. The hair, according to Mr. Ray, is so closely united to the skin, that it cannot be pulled off without great difficulty. These animals live under ground, burrowing down obliquely. At the end of their passage, the male sinks one perpendicular hole; and the female several, sometimes seven or eight. At the extremity of these are formed various vaults; either as lodges for themselves and young, or as store-houses for their food. Each young one has its separate apartment; and each sort of grain its appropriate vault: the former are lined with straw or grass. The vaults are of different depths, according to the age of the animals. A young hamster makes them scarcely a foot deep; an old one sinks them to the depth of four or five feet. The whole diameter of the habitation, with all its communications, is sometimes eight or ten feet.

The male and female have always separate apartments; for, except in their short season of courtship, they have no intercourse. The whole race, indeed, are so malevolent, as constantly to reject all association. They frequently fight, kill, and devour each other: and the female

shews so little affection for her young, that if any person dig into the hole, she attempts to make her own escape by burrowing deeper into the earth, leaving them to the mercy of the invader.

Hamsters have been sometimes known to eat flesh; but their favourite food consists of grain, herbs, and roots. Their pace is remarkably slow; but they perform the operation of burrowing in the ground with great agility. Not being formed for long journeys, their magazines are first stocked with such provisions as are most contiguous to their abode; which accounts for some of their chambers being filled with only one species of grain. After the harvest is reaped, they are compelled to go to greater distances in search of provisions, and carry to their store-houses whatever eatables they can lay hold of.

The pouches in their cheeks seem provided by nature to facilitate the transportation of food to their magazines. These, in the inside, are furnished with several glands; which secrete a certain fluid, that preserves the flexibility of the parts. They are each capable of containing about two ounces of grain; which the animal empties into its granary, by pressing its two fore-feet against its cheeks. When its cheeks are full, it may be caught with the hand, without danger; as it has not, in this condition, the free motion of its jaws. The quantity of provision found in their burrows, depends on the age or sex of the inhabitants. The old hamsters fre-

Torpidity during winter.

quently amass a hundred pounds weight; but the females and the young are contented with a much smaller quantity.

Dr. Russel informs us, that on dissecting one of these animals, he found the pouch, on each side of its mouth, stuffed with young French beans, arranged lengthways, so exactly and close to each other, that it appeared strange by what mechanism this had been effected; for the membrane which forms the pouch, though muscular, is extremely thin, and the most expert fingers could not have packed the beans in more regular order. When they were laid loose on the table, they formed a heap three times the bulk of the animal's body.

At the approach of winter, the hamsters retire to their subterraneous abodes, the entrances to which they close up with great care. Here they repose for some months; and feed on their provisions till the frost becomes severe, when they sink into so complete a state of torpidity, that neither respiration nor any kind of feeling is perceptible. When dissected, however, in this situation, the heart may be seen slowly contracting and dilating; the fat appears coagulated, and the intestines are quite cold. When found in a state of torpidity, the animal's head is bent under its belly, between the two fore-legs, and the hind-legs rest upon the muzzle. The eyes are closed; and when the eye-lids are forced open, they instantly shut again. The members are all stiff,

and the body feels as cold as ice. In this state the hamsters are frequently dug up by the peasantry; who employ much of their time in hunting for their retreats. These are easily known by the small mounts of earth raised at the end of the galleries; and the hoard, when discovered, often consists of a bushel or a bushel and a half of corn.

The stupor of these animals has been supposed to result entirely from a certain degree of cold; but experience has proved, that to render them torpid, they must also be excluded from all communication with the external air: for when one of them is shut up in a cage filled with earth and straw, and exposed in winter to a degree of cold even sufficient to freeze water, he never becomes so. But when the cage is sunk four or five feet under ground, and well secured against the access of air, at the end of eight or ten days he becomes as torpid as if he had been in his own burrow. If the cage be brought up to the surface, he will awake in a few hours; but resumes his torpid state when put below the earth again.

The actions of the hamster, in passing from a state of torpidity, are extremely singular. He first loses the rigidity of his members; and then makes profound respirations, but at long intervals. His legs begin to move; he opens his mouth, and utters disagreeable and rattling sounds. After continuing these operations for some time, he opens his eyes, and endeavours to

Boldness of attack.

raise himself on his legs. But all these movements are still reeling and unsteady; he, however, repeats his efforts, till he is at length able to stand on his legs. In this attitude he remains fixed; as if he meant to repose himself after his fatigue. But he gradually begins to walk, to eat, and to act in his usual manner. This restoration to a state of activity, requires more or less time, according to the temperature of the air. When exposed to a cold air, he sometimes requires above two hours to awake; but, in a more temperate air, he accomplishes his purpose much sooner.

The hamster seems to have no other passion than that of rage; which propels him to attack indiscriminately every animal that comes in his way. Ignorant of the art of saving himself by flight, rather than yield he will allow himself to be literally beaten to pieces. If he seize a man's hand, he must be killed before he will quit his hold; and horses and dogs are equally the objects of his rage. When the hamster perceives a dog at a distance, he empties his cheek-pouches, if they happen to be filled with grain; and blows them up so prodigiously, that the size of the head and neck greatly exceeds that of the rest of the body. He then raises himself on his hind legs, and thus darts upon the enemy. If he catch hold he never relinquishes it, but with the loss of his life. But the dog generally seizes him from behind, and strangles him. When two Ham-

Furious combats—Fecundity.

sters meet, they never fail to attack each other, and the stronger always devours the weaker.

Buffon remarks, that a combat between a male and female commonly lasts longer than that between two males. They begin by pursuing and biting each other; then each of them retires aside, as if to take breath. After a short interval they renew the engagement, and continue to fight till one of them falls. The vanquished uniformly serves for a repast to the conqueror.

The females bring forth twice or thrice a-year; each litter consisting of six or eight young; and their fecundity in some years is so great, as to be almost sufficient to occasion a dearth: but their perpetual hostilities happily counteract the ill effects of their rapid increase. In about three weeks after their birth, the young are driven from their holes, and left to seek their own provisions; and in fifteen or sixteen days, they begin to form their respective burrows.

Hamsters are found in various parts of Germany, Poland, and Silesia.

THE MARMOT.

THE Alpine marmot is about sixteen inches in length, has a short tail, and bears some resemblance both to the rat and the hare. The colour of the body is brownish above, and bright tawny

Description—Habitations.

on the under parts. The head is rather large, and flattish; the ears short, and concealed by the fur; and the tail thick and bushy. The voice generally resembles the murmuring of a young puppy: but when the animal is alarmed or irritated, it makes a whistling noise, very loud and piercing.

These animals delight in the regions of frost and snow, and are seldom to be found but on the summits of the Alps, or the highest mountains of Poland and Tartary. They remain in a torpid state during winter. About the end of September, or the early part of October, they retire into their holes, and do not come abroad again till the beginning of April. Their retreats are formed with much art and precaution. They do not make a single hole, nor either a straight or a winding tube; but a kind of gallery in the form of the letter Y, each branch of which has an aperture, and both terminate in a large apartment, where several of the animals lodge together. As the whole operation is performed on the declivity of a mountain, the innermost aperture alone is horizontal. Both the branches are inclined: one of them descends under the apartment, and follows the declivity of the mountain; this is a kind of aqueduct, to receive and carry off all the filth that is produced within: the other, which rises above the principal apartment, is used for coming in and going out at. The place

of their abode is comfortably lined with moss and hay, of which they lay up a considerable store during the summer.

We are informed upon respectable authority, that this labour is carried on jointly: that some of the animals cut the finest herbage, which is collected by others: and that they transport it to their habitations in the following manner: One, it is said, lies down on his back, allows himself to be loaded with hay, and extends his limbs; and others trail him, thus loaded, by the tail, taking care not to upset him. The task of thus serving as a vehicle, is divided alternately among the number. M. Beauplau, in his Description of Ukraine, asserts, that he has often seen them practise this, and has watched them at it for whole days together. The repeated frictions arising from sustaining a passive part in the operation, are assigned as the reason why the hair is generally rubbed off from their backs: though this effect may probably be produced by their frequent digging of the earth, which alone is sufficient to peel off the hair. However this may be, it is certain that they reside together, and work in common in their habitations, where they pass the greatest part of their lives. Thither they retire during rain, or on the approach of danger; and never go out but in fine weather, and even then to no great distance.

When a number of marmots are feeding together, one of them stands sentinel upon a rock;

and on perceiving a man, an eagle, a dog, or any other dangerous animal, he instantly utters a loud and shrill whistle, as the signal for a precipitate retreat.

The marmot is naturally playful; and when tamed, may be taught to hold a stick, to dance, and to exhibit a variety of gestures, at the command of its master. The female produces once a year, and has generally three or four young ones at a litter.

THE LEMING.

LEMINGS are principally found on the mountains of Norway and Lapland. They vary considerably both in size and colour: those of Norway being almost equal to water rats, while those of Lapland are scarcely as large as mice. The former are elegantly variegated with patches of black and tawny, having the sides of the head and the neck white. The legs and tail are greyish; and the under parts of the body a dull white. The head is large, short, and thick; with short ears and small eyes. The body is also thick; the neck short, and the limbs stout and strong. The tail is very short. When opposed, or enraged, they raise themselves upon their hind feet, and bark like little dogs.

These animals subsist entirely on vegetables. In summer they form shallow burrows under the

Migrations.

surface of the ground, and in winter they make long passages under the snow in search of food; for as they lay up no winter provisions, they are reduced to the necessity of hunting for them during all the rigors of the cold season.

They seem to be endowed with a power of distinguishing the approach of severe weather; for previously to the setting in of a cold winter they quit their haunts in the aforementioned countries, and emigrate in immense multitudes southwards towards Sweden, always endeavouring to keep a direct line. These emigrations take place at uncertain intervals, though generally about once every ten years: and, exposed as the travellers are to attack, they of course become the prey of a variety of animals. Multitudes also are destroyed in endeavouring to swim over the rivers or lakes. From these different causes, very few of them survive to return to their native mountains; and thus a check is put to their ravages, as an interval of several years is necessary to repair their numbers sufficiently for another invasion. They are bold and fierce, and even will attack men and animals if they meet them in their course; and they bite so hard, as to allow themselves to be carried to a considerable distance hanging by their teeth, before they will quit their hold. It has been remarked, that no opposition impedes the progress of these animals in their migrations.

If disturbed or pursued while swimming over

a lake, and their phalanx be separated by oars or poles, they will not recede; but keep swimming directly on, and soon get into regular order again. They have sometimes been known even to endeavour to board or pass over a vessel. Their march is chiefly by night, or early in the morning; and they make such devastation among the herbage, that the surface of the ground over which they have passed, appears as if it had been burned. They are even thought to infect the plants which they gnaw; for cattle turned into pastures where they have been, are said frequently to die in consequence. Their numbers have at times induced the Norwegians to believe that they had descended from the clouds; and the multitudes that are sometimes found dead on the banks of rivers, or other places, corrupt by their stench the whole atmosphere around, and thus produce many diseases.

An enemy so numerous and destructive would soon completely ruin the countries they pass through, did not the same rapacity that excites them to ravage the productions of the earth, at last impel them to destroy each other. Having devoured all the herbage, they frequently divide into two parties, attack each other, and fight like hostile armies. From these battles, the superstitious inhabitants of Sweden and Lapland pretend to foretel not only wars, but also their success, according to the quarters the animals come from, and the side that is defeated.

THE FIELD MOUSE.

THIS little animal is well known in all the temperate parts of Europe; where it frequents dry and elevated fields or woods. It is about four inches and a half in length, exclusive of the tail, which measures nearly four inches more. Its colour is a yellowish brown above, and whitish on the under parts. The eyes are full, black, and lively.

Mice have received their appellation from the circumstance of their being found only in fields and gardens. They live in burrows, twelve or fourteen inches under ground; where they lay up considerable quantities of acorns, nuts, beech-mast, &c. According to Buffon, a bushel of these substances has been sometimes found in a single hole. Their habitations are commonly divided into two apartments; the one for living in with their young, and the other as a store-room for their provisions. Their nests may be easily discovered by the small heaps of mould thrown up at the entrance of their runs, which lead by winding paths to the magazine.

The Rev. G. White relates a singular instance of sagacity in one of these animals, which occurred one day, as his servants were pulling off the lining of a hot-bed, in order to add some fresh dung. From out of the side of this bed, leaped something with great agility, that made a most

Instance of sagacity.

grotesque figure, and was not taken without much difficulty; when it proved to be a large field mouse with three or four young clinging to her teats by their mouths and feet. It was amazing that the desultory and rapid motions of the dam did not oblige her litter to quit their hold, especially when it appeared that they were so young as to be both naked and blind.

Field mice are very prolific; breeding more than once a-year, and often producing litters of eight or ten at a time. The nest for their young is generally made near the surface of the ground, and often in a thick tuft of grass.

THE HARVEST MOUSE.

THIS diminutive animal which hitherto appears to have been only found in Hampshire, is somewhat of a squirrel colour; with a white belly, having a straight line along the sides dividing the shades of the back and belly.

One of the nests of these little quadrupeds was procured by the Rev. Mr. White. It was most artificially platted, and composed of blades of wheat: perfectly round, and about the size of a cricket-ball; with the aperture so ingeniously closed, that there was no discovering to what part it belonged. It was so compact and well filled that it would roll across a table without being discomposed, though it contained eight

Curious nest.

young mice that were naked and blind. As this nest was perfectly full, it seemed difficult for the dam to come at her litter respectively so as to administer a teat to each. Perhaps, however, the different places might be opened for that purpose, and adjusted again when the business was over; but she could not possibly be contained herself in the ball with her young, which would also be daily increasing in bulk. This wonderful cradle, an elegant specimen of the efforts of instinct, was found in a wheat-field, suspended in the head of a thistle.

Our author remarked, that though the harvest mice hang their nests above the ground, yet in winter they burrow deep in the earth, and make warm beds of grass; but their grand rendezvous seems to be in corn-ricks, into which they are carried at harvest. Some of them, on being measured were found to be only two inches and a quarter in length, exclusive of their tails, which were nearly as long; and when put into a scale two of them weighed down just one copper half-penny. Hence they are supposed to be the smallest quadrupeds in this island.

CHAP. VI.

“The well-taught *otter* at th’ accustomed sign,
Dives through the glassy surface of the stream,
Seizes his prey, and to his master brings
The struggling captive.”

ANON.

THE OTTER.

THIS animal, though not wholly amphibious, is capable of remaining a considerable time under water, and can pursue its prey in that element with the utmost facility. It is a native of almost every country in Europe, and is still to be met with in some parts of England. The legs are short, but remarkably strong and muscular. The head is broad, oval, and flat on the upper part; the body is long and round; and the tail tapers gradually to a point. The legs are so placed as to be capable of being brought into a line with the body, and of performing the office of fins: and the toes are connected by webs. The ears are short; and the eyes are situated in such a

manner that the animal can see every object that is above it. The general colour of the body is a deep brown.

Otters generally inhabit the banks of rivers; and though they occasionally seize on the poultry and the smaller quadrupeds, their principal food is fish. "The otter," says Mr. Pennant, "shows great sagacity in forming its habitation. It burrows under-ground in the bank of some river or lake: and always makes the entrance of its hole under water, working upwards to the surface of the earth; and, before it reaches the top, it provides several lodges, that, in case of high floods it may have a retreat (for no animal seems desirous of lying drier), and then makes a minute orifice for the admission of air." It is also observed, that this animal, the more effectually to conceal its retreat, contrives to make this little air-hole in the midst of some thick bush.

In very hard weather, when its natural sort of food fails, the otter will kill lambs, sucking pigs, and poultry, and one was caught in a warren, where he had come to prey on the rabbits. In the year 1793, as two gentlemen were shooting, at Pilton, in Devonshire, the pointer stood at some brakes, whence burst a large otter: the dog seized, but being severely bitten, was soon obliged to quit his hold; after driving him about for some time in a turnip field, they killed him by blows upon the head, and this otter was at a

distance of at least five miles from any river or pond, that could supply him with fish, and it is to be presumed he meant to prey upon some land animal, as he had prowled so far from the place where his natural food could be procured.

In some parts of North America, otters are seen in winter at a distance from any apparent open water, both in woods and on plains; but the cause which leads them to such situations has never been ascertained. If pursued, when among the woods where the snow is light and deep, they immediately dive, and make considerable way under it; but they may be easily traced by the motion of the snow above them, and soon overtaken. The Indians kill great numbers of them with clubs, by tracking them in the snow; but some of the old ones are so fierce, when closely pursued, that they will turn upon and fly at their pursuers.

They are remarkably fond of play; and Mr. Hearne observes, one of their favourite pastimes is, to get on a high ridge of snow, bend their fore-feet backward, and slide down the side of it, sometimes to the distance of twenty yards.

Though naturally of a ferocious disposition, otters, when taken young may be educated, and completely tamed. The training of them requires considerable assiduity and perseverance; but their activity and use, when taught, sufficiently repay this trouble; and few animals are more beneficial to their masters. The usual me-

thod is first to teach them to fetch, in the same way as dogs; but, as they have not an equal docility, so it requires more art and experience to instruct them. It is usually performed by accustoming them to take in their mouths a truss made of leather, and stuffed with wool, of the shape of a fish; to drop it at a word of command; to run after it when thrown forward, and to bring it to their master. Real fish are next employed; which are thrown dead into the water, and which they are taught to fetch from thence. From dead fish they are led to living ones, till at length they are perfectly instructed in the whole art of fishing. An otter thus educated, is very valuable; he will catch fish enough to sustain not only himself but a whole family. "I have seen," says Goldsmith, "an otter go to a gentleman's pond at the word of command, drive the fish into a corner, and, seizing upon the largest of the whole, bring it off, in his mouth, to his master."

A person, who lived at Kilmerston, near Wooler, in Northumberland, had a tame otter, which followed him wherever he went. He frequently took it to fish in the river; and when satisfied, it never failed to return to its master. One day, in the absence of its owner, the otter being taken out to fish by his son, instead of returning as usual, refused to come at the accustomed call, and was lost. The father tried every

Tame otters.

means to recover it; but, after several days search, being near the place where his son had lost it, and calling it by its name, to his inexpressible joy it came creeping to his feet, and showed many marks of affection and firm attachment.

A gentleman in Essex had an otter, which always attended him like a dog, and every afternoon, when the old gentleman slept, the otter regularly stationed itself in his lap; it used to get fish from the ponds in the gardens and grounds near the house; it had milk also given it; but was at last accidentally killed, by a maid-servant striking it with a broom handle upon the nose, where a small blow is fatal.

Some years ago, James Campbell, near Inverness, had a young otter, which he brought up and tamed. It would follow him wherever he chose; and, if called by its name, would immediately obey. When apprehensive of danger from dogs, it sought the protection of its master, and would endeavour to spring into his arms for greater security. It was frequently employed in catching fish, and would sometimes take eight or ten salmon in a day. If not prevented, it always attempted to break the fish behind the fin next the tail; and, on one being taken away, it immediately dived in pursuit of more. When tired, it would refuse to fish any longer; and was then remunerated with as much as it could eat.

Tame otters used in fishing.

Having satisfied its appetite, it always coiled itself round, and fell asleep; in which state it was generally carried home. This animal fished as well in the sea as in fresh water, and took great numbers of young cod and other fish.

Mr. Bewick relates, that another person who kept a tame otter, suffered it to follow him with his dogs. It was very useful to him in fishing; by going into the water, and driving trout and other fish towards the net. It was remarkable, that dogs accustomed to otter-hunting, were so far from giving it the least molestation, that they would not even hunt any otter while this remained with them; on which account the owner was under the necessity of disposing of it.

In the *Prædium Rusticum* of Vaniere, the method of fishing with tame otters is described in language to the following effect:

“Should chance within this dark recess betray
The tender young, bear quick the prize away.
Tam’d by thy care, the useful brood shall join
The wat’ry chase, and add their toils to thine;
From each close lurking-hole shall force away;
And drive within thy nets, the silver prey:
As the taught hound the timid stag subdues,
And o’er the dewy plain the panting hare pursues.”

M. Poissonnier, having tamed a young otter, found that, after a little instruction, it would run to a small river, about a hundred yards from his house, and very seldom returned without a live fish in its mouth. He also brought it to such a

Mode of catching fish.

state of domestication, that to whatever distance it went, it always returned, with the utmost punctuality, to its kennel.

When the otter, in its wild state, has caught a fish, it immediately drags it ashore, and devours the head and upper parts, leaving the remainder: and when domesticated, it will eat no fish except such as are perfectly fresh; but will prefer bread, milk, &c. It generally hunts against the stream; and when more than one are fishing at the same time, they frequently utter a sort of loud whistle to each other, as if by way of signal. When two of them are hunting a salmon, one stations itself above, and the other below the place where the fish is: and they continue to chase it, till, becoming perfectly wearied out, it surrenders itself without resistance. When hunting singly, the otter has two modes of taking its prey. The first is by pursuing it from the bottom upwards; this is principally done with the larger fish; whose eyes being placed so as not to see under them, the animal attacks them by surprise from below, and, seizing them by the belly, drags them away. The other mode is by driving them into some corner of the pond or lake, and there seizing them. The latter, however, can only be practised in water where there is no current, and on the smaller fish; for it would be impossible to force the large ones out of deep water. It has been observed, that the otter is as noxious in a

A young otter nourished by a bitch.

fish-pond, as the polecat in a hen-roost; for he frequently kills more fish than he can eat, and then carries off but one in his teeth.

The female brings four or five young at a time, about the month of June; as it frequents ponds near gentlemen's houses, litters have been found in cellars, sinks, and other drains. The cubs have been known to have been suckled and brought up by a bitch: near South Molton, in Devonshire, this happened, and the young otter followed his master with the dogs, but seemed to have no inclination for the water. The young of animals are generally beautiful, but the young otter is not so handsome as the old.

In the northern parts of America, these animals change their colour in winter to white, like most of the other Arctic animals; and it is not till very late in the spring that they resume their brown summer dress.

The hunting of the otter was formerly considered as excellent sport, and hounds were kept solely for that purpose; the sportsmen went on each side the river, beating the banks and sedges with the dogs; if an otter were in that quarter, his *seal* was soon traced upon the mud, as the water, wherever it would admit of it, (according to the mode now pursued) was lowered as much as possible, to expose the hollow banks, reed-beds, and stubs, that might otherwise shelter him; each hunter had a spear to attack the otter

Otter-hunting.

when he *vented*, or came to the surface of the water to breathe. If an otter were not soon found by the water side, it was imagined that he had gone to *couch* more inland, and was sought for accordingly; (for sometimes they will feed a considerable way from their place of rest, choosing rather to go up than down the stream). If the hounds found an otter, the sportsmen viewed his track in the mud, to find which way he had taken. The spears were used in aid of the dogs. When an otter is wounded, he makes directly to land, where he maintains an obstinate defence; he bites severely, and does not readily quit his hold; when he seizes the dogs in the water, he always dives with, and carries them far below the surface: an old otter will never give up whilst he has life, and it is observable, that the male otter never makes any complaint when seized by the dogs, or even transfixcd with a spear; but the pregnant females emit a very shrill cry. The chase of the otter has still, however, its admirers, who are apparently as zealous in this pursuit as in any other we read of. In 1795, near Bridgnorth, on the river Worse, four otters were killed: one stood three, another four hours, before the dogs, and was scarcely a minute out of sight. The hearts, &c. were dressed, and eaten by many respectable people who attended the hunt, and allowed to be very delicious.

The otter's flesh, however, is so extremely rank

Rankness of the flesh.

and fishy, that the Romish church allows its use on maigre days. In the kitchen of the Carthusian convent, near Dijon, Mr. Pennant saw one preparing for the dinner of the *religieuse* of that rigid order, who, by their rules, are prohibited, during their whole lives, the eating of flesh.

The otters of Cayenne are very large, weighing from ninety to a hundred pounds. Their cry also is remarkably loud, and may be heard at a considerable distance.

THE SEA OTTER.

GREAT numbers of these animals are found on the coast of Kamtschatka, and in the adjacent islands, as well as on the opposite coasts of America; but they are confined within a very few degrees of latitude. The length of the sea otter is about four feet, of which the tail occupies thirteen inches. The ears are small and erect, and the whiskers long and white. The legs are short and thick, the hinder ones somewhat resembling those of a seal. The largest of them weigh from seventy to eighty pounds. The fur is thick, long, and glossy; and forms a considerable article of export from Russia.

In their manners these animals are very harmless: and peculiarly attached to their offspring.

Affection towards the young.

They will never desert them; but will even starve themselves to death on being robbed of them, and strive to breathe their last on the spot where their young have been destroyed. The female produces only a single young one at a time; which she suckles almost a whole year. The parents often carry their young between their teeth, and fondle them, frequently flinging them up and catching them again in their paws. Before these can swim, the old ones will take them in their fore-feet, and swim about with them upon their backs.

Sea otters swim sometimes on their sides; at other times on their backs, or in an upright position. They are very sportive, and two of them may be frequently seen embracing each other. When attacked they make no resistance, but endeavour to save themselves by flight: if, however, they are closely pressed, and can see no means of escape, they scold and grin like an angry cat. On receiving a blow, they immediately lie on their side, draw up their hind-legs, cover their eyes with their fore-paws, and thus seem to prepare themselves for death. But if they are fortunate enough to escape their pursuer, they deride him as soon as they are safe in the sea, with various diverting tricks: at one time, keeping themselves on end in the water, and jumping over the waves, holding their fore-paw over the eyes, as if to shade them from the

sun while looking out for their enemy; then throwing their young down into the water and fetching them up again. In their escape they carry the sucklings in their mouths, and drive before them those that are full-grown.

The flesh of these otters when young, is said to be delicate eating, and to have a near resemblance to that of a lamb.



CHAP. VII.

“How instinct varies in the grov’ling swine,
Compar’d, half reas’ning elephant! with thine.”

—————“as the brindled boar
Grins fell destruction, to the monster’s heart
Let the dart lighten from the nervous arm.”

THOMSON.

THE WILD BOAR.

THIS animal, which is the original of all the varieties to be found in the hog species, is much smaller than the domestic kind; and does not, like them, vary in colour, but is uniformly of a brindled grey, inclining to black. His snout is considerably longer than that of the tame hog, and his ears are short, round, and black. Each jaw is also armed with formidable tusks, with which he ploughs up the earth like a furrow, in search of roots, &c. and does irreparable damage in cultivated tracts of land: with these also he acts offensively against his enemies, and frequently inflicts very terrible wounds.

“The wild boar,” says Dr. Goldsmith, “cannot properly be called either a solitary or a gregarious animal. The three first years the whole litter follows the sow, and the family live in a herd together. They are then called beasts of company, and unite their common forces against the invasions of the wolf or the more formidable beasts of prey. Upon this their principal safety, while young, depends; for, when attacked, they give each other mutual assistance; the strongest form a ring, and face the danger, and the weakest fall into the centre. In this position few ravenous beasts dare venture to attack them, but pursue the chase where there is less resistance and danger. However, when the wild boar is arrived at a state of maturity, he walks the forest alone and fearless. At that time he dreads no single creature, nor does he turn out of his way even for man himself. He does not seek danger, and he does not seem to avoid it.”

The chase of these animals is a dangerous, but common, amusement of the great, in those countries where it is found. The dogs used for this sport are of the slow, heavy kind; as those trained for hunting the stag or roe-buck would too soon come up with their prey, and instead of a chase, would only furnish an engagement. When the boar is housed, he goes slowly forward, not much afraid, and at no great distance from his pursuers. He frequently turns round,

Chase of the boar.

stops till the hounds come up, and attempts to attack them; but as these are perfectly aware of their danger, they keep off, and bay him at a distance. After gazing on each other, for some time, with equal animosity, the boar again goes forward, till he at length becomes perfectly fatigued, and refuses to proceed any further. The dogs then attempt to close in upon him from behind, and though many of the younger ones lose their lives in consequence of their temerity, the others keep him at bay till the huntsmen come up, and dispatch him with their spears.

These animals are found in almost all the temperate parts both of Europe and Asia, as well as in some of the upper parts of Africa.

In former times the wild boar was a native of Britain, as appears from the laws of Howel Dda, the famous Welsh legislator; who permitted his grand huntsman to chase that animal from the middle of November to the beginning of December. William the Conqueror also punished such as were convicted of killing the wild boars in his forests with the loss of their eyes.

THE COMMON HOG.

THE common or domestic hog is, generally speaking, a very harmless creature, and preys on no animals but either dead ones, or such as are

incapable of resistance. He lives, for the chief part, on vegetables, yet can devour the most putrescent carcasses. He is, however, generally supposed much more indelicate than he really is. He selects, at least the plants of his choice, with equal sagacity and niceness, and is never poisoned, like some other animals, by mistaking noxious for wholesome food. Selfish, indocile, and rapacious, as many think him, no animal has greater sympathy for those of his own kind. The moment one of them gives a signal of distress, all within hearing rush to his assistance. They have been known to gather round a dog that teased them, and kill him on the spot: and if a male and female be inclosed in a sty when young, and be afterward separated, the female will decline from the instant her companion is removed, and will probably die of a broken heart.

This animal is well adapted to the mode of life to which it is destined. Having to gain a subsistence principally by turning up the earth with its nose; we find that the neck is strong and brawny; the eyes small and placed high in the head; the snout long; the nose tough and callous, and the power of smelling extremely acute.

In the island of Minorca, hogs are converted into beasts of draught; a cow, a sow, and two young horses, have been there seen yoked together, and of the four the sow drew the best,

A pig-pointer.

The ass and the hog are here also common help-mates, and are frequently yoked together to plow the land. In some parts of Italy hogs are used in hunting for truffles, which grow some inches deep in the ground. A cord being tied round the hind-leg of one of the animals, the beast is driven into the pastures, and wherever it stops and begins to root with its nose, truffles are always to be found.

The various *learned pigs* which have at different times been exhibited in this country afford sufficient proof that these animals are not destitute of natural sagacity. The following is, however, an instance more truly curious than perhaps any even of these:—"A gamekeeper of Sir H. Mildmay," says the Rev. Mr. Daniel, "actually broke a black sow to find game, and to back, and stand. *Slut*, which was the name he gave her, was rendered as staunch as any pointer. After Sir Henry's death this *pig-pointer* was sold by auction for a very considerable sum of money; but possibly the secret of breaking swine to the field expired with the inventor."

The hog is one of those animals that are doomed to clear the earth of filth and refuse; and that convert the most nauseous offals into the richest nutriment. It has not altogether been unaptly compared to a miser, who is useless and rapacious in his life, but at his death becomes of public use, by the very effects of his sordid manners. During his life he renders little ser-

Pigs affected by wind.

vice to mankind, except in removing that filth which other animals reject.

The thickness of his hide and fat renders the hog almost insensible of ill treatment, and instances have even occurred of mice eating their way into the fat on the back of one of these animals without incommoding the creature. Although naturally inoffensive, he possesses powers which, when called into action, render him a very formidable enemy. He is, however, stupid, inactive, and drowsy; and nothing but the calls of appetite interrupt his repose, to which he always returns as soon as these are satiated.

Wind seems to have great influence on these animals, for when it blows violently they appear much agitated, and run towards the sty, sometimes screaming in a most violent manner. Naturalists have also remarked that, on the approach of bad weather, they will bring straw to the sty, as if to guard against its effects. The peasants in some parts of the country have a singular adage that "pigs can see wind."

Those who are at all acquainted with the manners of the hog, must have observed that they are extremely tenacious of life. A most curious instance of this sort is related in Josselyn's Account of Two Voyages to New England. I shall extract the passage, and leave the reader to judge of its authenticity. "Being at a friend's house in Cambridgeshire, the cook-maid, making ready to slaughter a pig, she put the hinder parts be-

A singular anecdote.

tween her legs, as the usual manner is, and taking the snout in her left hand, with a long knife stuck the pig, and cut the small end of the heart almost in two, letting it bleed as long as any blood came forth; then throwing it into a kettle of boiling water, the pig swam twice round about the kettle; when, taking it out to the dresser, she rubbed it with powdered rosin, and stripped off the hair, and as she was cutting off the hinder petty-toe, the pig lifted up his head with open mouth as if it would have bitten: the belly was then cut up, the entrails drawn out, and the heart laid upon the board, which, notwithstanding the wound it received, had motion in it above four hours after. There were several of the family by, with myself, and we could not otherwise conclude but that the pig was bewitched."

The female goes four months with young, and has numerous litters, sometimes twenty at a time. These animals live to a considerable age, even to twenty-five or thirty years. The flesh, though very nutritious, from not being so digestible as some other kinds of animal food, is supposed to be unwholesome to persons who lead sedentary lives.

In the island of Sumatra there is a variety of this animal that frequents the impenetrable bushes and marshes of the sea-coast. They live on crabs and roots; associate in herds, are of a grey colour, and smaller than the English swine. At certain periods of the year, they swim in large

Salettian mode of hunting.

herds, consisting of sometimes a thousand, from one side of the river Siak to the other, at its mouth, which is three or four miles broad, and again return at stated times. This kind of passage also takes place in the small islands, by their swimming from one to the other. On these occasions they are hunted by a tribe of the Malays, distinct from all the others of the island, who live on the coasts of the kingdom of Siak, called Salettians.

These men are said to discover the swine by their scent long before they see them, and when they do this they immediately prepare their boats. They then send out their dogs, which are trained to this kind of hunting, along the strand, where, by their barking, they prevent the swine from coming ashore and concealing themselves among the bushes. During the passage the boars precede, and are followed by the females and the young, all in regular rows, each resting its snout on the rump of the preceding one. Swimming thus in close rows they form a singular appearance.

The Salettians, men and women, meet them in their small flat boats. The former row, and throw large mats, made of long leaves interwoven through each other, before the leader of each row of swine, which still continues to swim with great strength; but, soon pushing their feet into the mats, they get so entangled as to be able either no longer to move them, or only to move

Salettian mode of hunting.

them very slowly. The rest are, however, neither alarmed nor disconcerted, but keep close to each other, none of them leaving the position in which they were placed. The men then row towards them in a lateral direction, and the women, armed with long javelins, stab as many of the swine as they can reach. For those beyond their reach they are furnished with smaller spears, about six feet in length, which they are able to throw to the distance of thirty or forty feet with pretty sure aim. As it is impossible for them to throw mats before all the rows, the rest of these animals swim off in regular order, to the places for which they set out, and for this time escape the danger. As the dead animals are found floating around in great numbers, they are picked up and put into larger boats which follow for the purpose.

Some of these swine are sold to the Chinese traders who visit the island; and of the rest they preserve in general only the skins and fat. The latter, after being melted, is purchased by the Maki Chinese; and is used by the common people instead of butter, as long as it is not rancid, and also for burning in lamps, instead of cocoa-nut oil.

THE ETHIOPIAN HOG.

THE general appearance of this animal resembles that of the common hog; but it is distinguished from it by a pair of large semicircular lobes, or wattles, placed beneath the eyes. The snout also is considerably broader, and very strong and callous. It is of a fierce and savage disposition; resides principally in subterraneous recesses, which it digs with its nose and hoofs; and, when attacked or pursued, it rushes on its adversary with great force, striking, like the common boar, with its tusks, which are capable of inflicting the most terrible wounds.

These quadrupeds inhabit the most uncultivated and hottest parts of Africa, from Senegal to Congo, and are also found on the island of Madagascar. The natives carefully avoid their retreats; since, from their savage nature, they often rush upon them unawares, and gore them with their tusks.

A boar of this species was, in 1765, sent by the governor of the Cape of Good Hope to the Prince of Orange. From confinement and attention he became tolerably mild and gentle, except when offended; in which case even those persons to whose care he was entrusted were afraid of him. In general, however, when the door of his cage was opened, he came out in perfect good humour, frisked about in search of

food, and greedily devoured whatever was given him. He was one day left alone in the courtyard for a few minutes, and on the return of the keeper was found busily digging into the earth, where, notwithstanding the cemented bricks of the pavement, he had made a very large hole, with a view, as was afterwards discovered, of reaching a common sewer that passed at a considerable depth below. It was not without much trouble, and the assistance of several men, that his labour could be interrupted. They, at length, however, forced him into his cage, but he expressed great resentment, and uttered a sharp and mournful noise.

His motions were much more agile and neat than those of the common hog. He would allow himself to be stroked, and even seemed delighted with rough friction. When provoked, or rudely pushed, he always retired backward, keeping his face towards his assailant, and striking forcibly with his head. When, after long confinement, he was set at liberty for a little while, he was very gay, and leaped about in an entertaining manner. On these occasions he would, with his tail erect, sometimes pursue the fallow-deer and other animals.

His food was principally grain and roots; and of the former he preferred barley.

Dr. Sparrman, during his residence in Africa, witnessed a curious method by which these animals protected their young, when pursued. He

followed several pigs with the old sows, with an intention of shooting one of them: but though he failed in his design, their chase afforded him singular pleasure.

The heads of the females, which had before seemed of a tolerable size, appeared on a sudden to have grown larger and more shapeless than they were. This he found to have been occasioned by the fact that each of the old ones, during its flight, had taken up and carried forwards a young pig in its mouth; and this explained to him another subject of surprise, which was, that all the pigs he had just before been chasing with the old ones had suddenly vanished.

PECCARY; OR; MEXICAN HOG.

THE peccary, at first view, resembles a small domestic hog, particularly in the shape of its head, the length of its snout, and the form of its body and legs; but, upon a nearer examination, several striking differences appear. The body is not so bulky; the bristles are thicker and stronger than those of the hog; and the animal has upon its back a sort of navel, which exudes a liquor of a strong musky smell. The ears are about two inches and a half long, and erect; the eyes are small; and one side of the lower lip is generally smooth, by the rubbing of the tusk of the

upper jaw. The feet and hoofs are like those of the common hog, but the animal has no tail.

Peccaries are very numerous in all parts of South America, where they are frequently seen in herds of several hundreds together, grazing among the woods. They seem partial to the mountainous parts of the country, and subsist upon wild fruits, roots and herbage.

When unmolested, these animals appear inoffensive, but an attack is always resented; and the females, when robbed of their young, become perfectly infuriate. Upon these occasions the whole herd unite and pursue the plunderer; and if he have the good fortune to elude their vengeance by climbing a tree, they will assemble round the root and remain there for hours together, their rough bristles standing erect, and their eyes flaming with rage.

The peccary may be tamed like the common hog; and if taken young, they soon lose all their native ferocity: but they always continue rude and stupid, without exhibiting any remarkable signs of attachment or docility, or even seeming to know the hand that feeds them. They seldom exert their voice; but when alarmed or irritated they have an abrupt angry manner of blowing; and when several of them happen to be fed in common, they utter a kind of growl, stronger and harsher than that of a hog.

The flesh of the peccary though leaner and

General description.

drier than that of the European hog, is by no means disagreeable. When killed, the dorsal gland must be immediately cut off; for if this operation be deferred only half an hour the flesh becomes utterly unfit to be eaten.

One of these animals is in the possession of Mr. Pidcock, at Exeter 'Change, and is so perfectly tame, as to be allowed the range of one of the principal apartments in the menagerie.

THE BARBYROUSSA.

THE barbyroussa though generally classed with animals of the hog kind, differs materially from that species; as it has neither the bristles, the stature, the head, nor the tail of a hog. Its legs are considerably longer; its body more slender; its ears short and pointed, and its tail long and tufted at the end. The body is also covered with short soft hair, of a dark grey colour mixed with red; and the jaws are furnished with four large tusks; the two stoutest of which proceed from the under jaw, pointing upwards, and standing nearly eight inches out of the sockets; the two others rise up like horns on the outside of the upper jaw, and extend in a curve above the eyes. These tusks are of the most beautiful ivory; but not so hard as those of the elephant.

Though, by its teeth and tusks, the barby-

Singular mode of reposing.

roussa seems adapted for a state of hostility, it subsists principally upon vegetables and the leaves of trees; and in general it lives remote from mankind, seldom seeking to break into gardens, like the boar, in order to pillage the more succulent productions of human industry. It may be easily domesticated, and its flesh is said to be tolerable food, though it soon becomes putrescent.

These animals have a singular mode of reposing themselves; which is, according to the account of a celebrated naturalist, by hitching one of their upper tusks on the branch of a tree, and then suffering their whole body to swing down at ease. Thus suspended from a tooth, they continue the whole night quite secure, and out of the reach of such animals as hunt them for prey.

They live in herds like animals of the hog kind, and have a very strong scent, which discovers them to the hounds. They run much swifter than the wild-boar, and when pursued, they growl dreadfully, often turning upon the dogs, and wounding them with the tusks of the lower jaw. When closely pursued, they plunge into the sea, where they swim with great facility; diving and rising again at pleasure.

The barbyroussa is a native of Borneo, in the East Indies, and is also found in many other parts of Asia and Africa.

THE GUINEA PIG.

THIS quadruped is considerably less than the rabbit; its ears are large and broad, and its colour, in general, white, varied with orange and black. It is a native of Brazil: but it lives and propagates in temperate, and even in cold climates, when properly sheltered from the inclemency of the seasons. In a state of domestication, it feeds on bread, grain, fruit, and other vegetable substances, but it seems to give a decided preference to parsley. It may be easily rendered tame, and is very cleanly and harmless. In a domestic state, the Guinea pig appears totally void of attachment, not only to its benefactors, but even to its own young; which it will suffer to be taken away, and even devoured, without discovering the least concern, or attempting resistance.

When kept in a room, it seldom crosses the floor, but generally creeps round by the wall. Its motions are nearly analogous to those of the rabbit: it strokes its head with its fore-feet, and sits on its hind-legs, like that animal. The male usually compels the female to go before him, and follows exactly in her footsteps. They are fond of dark and intricate retreats, and seldom venture out when danger is near. When about to quit their hiding places, they spring forward to the entrance; stop to listen and look round;

and if the road be clear, they sally forth in search of food; but on the slightest alarm they instantly run back again.

In their habits, they are so exceedingly clean, that if the young, by any accident, are dirtied, the female takes such a dislike to them, as never again to suffer them to approach her. They may frequently be observed in the act of smoothing and dressing their fur, somewhat in the manner of a cat. The principal employments of the male and female, seem to consist in smoothing each other's hair: after this office has been mutually performed, they turn their attention to the young, whose hair they take particular care to keep unruffled and even; and the least appearance of a refractory spirit is always followed by severe chastisement.

They repose flat on their belly; but, like the dog, turn round several times before they lie down. They repose with their eyes half open, and are very wakeful. It is observed, that the male and female seldom sleep at the same time, but seem alternately to watch each other. They are exceedingly delicate, and impatient of cold or moisture. Their usual voice is a kind of grunting, like that of a young pig; but their notes of pain are acute and piercing.

Their manner of fighting is very singular, and seems extremely ridiculous. One of them seizes the neck of its antagonist with its teeth, and attempts to tear the hair from it. In the mean

time, the other turns his posteriors to his enemy, kicks up behind like a horse, and, by way of retaliation, scratches the sides of his opponent with his hinder claw; so that sometimes they cover each other with blood.

This species would be almost innumerable if many of them were not taken off by various means. Some fall a prey to cats; others to the ferocity of the males; and a greater proportion both of young and old, perish by the severity of the climate, or want of proper attention.

THE AGOUTI.

THE agouti is about the size of a rabbit, and nearly resembles that animal in the appearance of its head, the arched form of its back, and in the hind-legs being longer than the fore; but its hair is hard and bristly, like that of a young pig, and of a reddish brown colour; its tail and ears are shorter than in the rabbit; and it has but three toes on the hinder feet, whereas the rabbit has five.

This animal seems to possess the voracity of the hog; as it eats indiscriminately of all things, and when satiated, conceals the remainder for some future occasion. Its ordinary food, however, consists of potatoes, yams, and the fruits which fall from the trees in Autumn. It carries its food to its mouth with its fore-paws, in the

Hunting the agouti.

manner of the squirrel, and it enjoys the senses of sight and hearing in the utmost perfection. When irritated, its hair stands erect along the back; and it strikes the ground forcibly with its hind feet; at the same time uttering a cry like that of a sucking pig.

The female breeds twice or thrice a year, and generally brings forth her young in the most sequestered parts of the woods; where she prepares a comfortable bed of leaves and dry grass, for their accommodation. At the expiration of three days she removes them into some hollow tree, and in a short time afterward leaves them to seek their own subsistence.

When hunted in an open country, the agouti runs with great swiftness before the dogs till it gains its retreat; whence nothing can force it but filling the hole with smoke. "For this purpose," says Goldsmith, "the hunter burns faggots, or straw, at the entrance, and conducts the smoke in such a manner that it fills the whole cavity. While this is doing, the poor little animal seems sensible of its danger, and begs for quarter, with a most plaintive cry, seldom quitting its hole till the utmost extremity. At last, when half suffocated, it issues out, and trusts once more to its speed for protection. When still forced by the dogs, and incapable of effecting a retreat, it turns upon the hunters, and, standing upon its hind-feet, defends itself very obstinately. Sometimes it bites the legs of those

who attempt to take it, and will tear out the piece wherever it fixes its teeth."

These animals are very numerous in the southern parts of America, and seem to be peculiar to the new continent. The flesh of such as are well fed is tolerable food, and is dressed by the French, like a sucking pig.



CHAP. VIII.

"The gentle timid *musk*, when close pursued,
Bounds o'er the excavations of the rocks
With speed incredible; and soon he leaves
The panting dogs behind."

THOMAS.

THE MUSK.

VARIOUS accounts of this quadruped have been given by naturalists and travellers, who seem to have noticed it rather for the perfume which it produces than with respect to its nature and qualities.

The musk of Thibet is rather more than two feet in height at the shoulder, and its length from the head to the tail, is about three feet. The ears are somewhat large, the neck thick, and the hair on the whole body long, upright, and thick set. Each hair is undulated, the tip ferruginous, the middle black, and the bottom cinereous. The limbs are very slender, and of a dull

black colour; and the tail is so short as to be scarcely visible.

The musk is a native of several parts of Asia, and is found throughout the whole kingdom of Thibet. It lives retired among the highest and rudest mountains. Except in autumn, it is a solitary animal; but at this season large flocks collect in order to change their place, being driven southward by the approaching cold. During this migration the peasants lie in wait for them; and either take them in snares, or kill them with arrows and bludgeons. At these times they are often so meagre and languid from hunger and fatigue that they may be taken with tolerable facility.

The disposition of these animals is gentle and timid; and they have no weapons of defence except their tusks. Their activity is very great, and they are able to take astonishing leaps over the chasms of the rocks. They tread so lightly on the snow, as scarcely to leave the print of their footsteps; while the dogs that are used in hunting them, sink in, and are frequently obliged to give up the pursuit. They feed on various vegetables of the mountains. They are usually taken in snares, or shot by cross-bows placed in their tracks, with a string from the trigger for them to tread on and discharge the bow. Their chase is exceedingly laborious.

In an oval receptacle about the size of a small

Account of the drug called musk.

egg, is contained the well known drug called *musk*. This hangs from the middle of the belly, and is peculiar to the male. A full-grown animal will yield a drachm and a half, and an old one two drachms. The bag is furnished with two small orifices, the one naked and the other covered with oblong hairs. Gmelin observes, that on squeezing this bag, he forced the musk through the apertures, in the form of a brown unctuous matter. The hunters cut off the bag and tie it up for sale, but often adulterate the contents, by mixing them with other matter to increase their weight. The musk is even sometimes taken entirely out, and a composition of the animal's blood and liver is inserted in its stead: but when the bags are opened the imposition may be immediately detected. The deceit, however, most commonly practised, is that of putting into the bags little bits of lead in order to augment the weight.

It is said, that when the musk bag is first opened, so powerful an odour comes from it, that every person present is obliged to cover his mouth and nose with several folds of linen, and that, notwithstanding this precaution, the blood will frequently gush from the nose. When the musk is fresh, a very small quantity in a confined place is insupportable; causing giddiness in the head, and hemorrhages, which have sometimes proved fatal.

Description.

These animals must be extremely numerous in the Oriental countries; as Tavernier informs us, that in one journey he collected seven thousand six hundred and seventy-three musk bags.

The flesh of the males, though strongly infected with the flavour of the musk, is sometimes eaten by the Tartars and Russians; and the skins are used in many parts as an article of dress. The Russians scrape off the hair, and have a method of preparing the leather so as to render it as soft and shining as silk.

THE ELK.

THIS animal is often larger than the horse, both in height and bulk; but the length of its legs, the bulk of its body, the shortness of its neck, and uncommon length of its head and ears, without any appearance of a tail, render its form extremely awkward. The hair of the male is black at the points, cinereous in the middle, and perfectly white at the roots. That of the female is of a sandy-brown, but whitish under the throat, belly, and flanks. The upper-lip is broad, deeply furrowed, and hangs over the mouth; the nose is broad, and the nostrils remarkably large and wide. The horns, which are found only on the males, have no brow-antlers, and the palms are extremely broad. They are shed annually, and

Hunting the elk.

some have been seen that weighed upwards of sixty pounds.

The legs of these quadrupeds are so long, and their necks so disproportionally short, that they cannot graze on level ground, like other animals, but are obliged to browse the tops of large plants, and the leaves or branches of trees.

The pace of the elk is a high shambling trot; and all its actions and attitudes appear very uncouth. In walking they lift their feet very high, and are able, without any difficulty, to step over a gate five feet in height. The acuteness of their hearing renders it very difficult to kill them in the summer time, and the Indians have then no other method of doing it, but by creeping after them among the trees and bushes, till they get within gun-shot. In winter, when the snow is so hard frozen that the natives can go upon it in their snow-shoes, they are able frequently to run them down; for they are very tender-footed and short-winded, and their slender legs break through the snow at every step, and plunge them up to the belly. Sometimes, however, the hunters have been kept in chase for two days. On these occasions the Indians take with them nothing more than a knife or bayonet, and a little bag containing implements for lighting a fire. When the animals are incapable of further speed, they stand and keep their pursuers at bay with their head and fore-feet; with the

Hunting the elk.

latter of which they are so dexterous, that they will kill a dog or even a wolf, with a single blow; and the Indians are generally obliged to lash their knives or bayonets to the end of a long stick, and stab the elk at a distance. Some who have neglected this precaution, and attempted to rush in upon them, have received very serious blows. When wounded they frequently become furious, rush boldly on the hunters, and endeavour to tread them down: in this case the men are frequently obliged to leave their outer garments to the vengeance of the exasperated animals, and escape into the trees.

In hot weather these quadrupeds frequent the margins of rivers and lakes, getting into the water in order to avoid the prodigious swarms of musquitoes and other flies that pester them during that season. They are often killed by the Indians, while they are crossing rivers, or swimming from the main land to islands. When pursued in this situation they are the most inoffensive of all animals, never making any resistance: And the young ones are so extremely simple, that, in North America, Mr. Hearne saw an Indian paddle his canoe up to one of them, and take it by the poll without the least opposition; the poor harmless animal seeming, at the same time, as contented alongside the canoe, as if swimming by the side of its dam, and looking up in the faces of those who were about to become its murderers with the most unsuspecting

Various methods of taking the elk.

innocence; using its fore-feet almost every instant to clear its eyes of musketoes, which at the time were remarkably numerous.

Sometimes a large party of Indians assemble in their canoes, and form a vast crescent towards the shore. Detached bodies then go into the woods, and having surrounded an extensive tract, let loose their dogs, and press, with loud shouts, towards the water. The terrified animals fly before the hunters, and plunge into the lake, where the persons stationed in the canoes attack and kill them with clubs or lances.

The Indians also sometimes inclose a large piece of ground with stakes interwoven with branches of trees, which form two sides of a triangle, the bottom opening into a second inclosure completely triangular. In the opening are hung snares made of slips of raw hides. The elks are driven by a party in the woods, into the first inclosure; and some, endeavouring to force their way into the farthest triangle, are caught by their neck or horns; and those which escape the snares, and pass the opening, meet their fate from the arrows of the hunters directed at them from all quarters.

It appears that they may be tamed and domesticated with the utmost facility; and we are informed that they will even follow their keeper to any distance from home, and at his call return with him, without ever attempting to deviate from the path.

Tame elks.

Mr. Hearne relates, that an Indian had, at the Factory at Hudson's Bay, in the year 1777; two of these animals so tame, that when he was on his passage to Prince of Wales's Fort, in a canoe, they always followed him along the bank of the river; and whenever he landed, they generally came and fondled on him, in the same manner as the most domestic animal would have done, and never offered to stray from the tents. One day he crossed a deep bay in one of the lakes, in order to save a very circuitous rout along its bank, and expected the creatures would, as usual, follow him round, but unfortunately at night they did not arrive; and as the howling of wolves was heard in the quarter where they were, it is supposed they were unfortunately devoured.

M. D'Obsonville mentions his having in his possession, while in the East Indies, an animal which appears to have been of this species. "I procured it," says he, "when only ten or twelve days old, and had it for about two years, without ever tying it up. I even let it run abroad, and sometimes amused myself with making it draw in the yard, or carry little burthens. It always came when called, and I found few signs of impatience, except when it was not allowed to remain near me. When I departed from the island of Sumatra, I gave it to Mr. Law of Lauriston, the governor-general, an intimate friend. This gentleman, not having an opportunity of keeping it

Instance of recollection.

about his person, as I had done, sent it to his country house. Here being kept alone, and chained in a confined corner, it soon became so furious as not to be approached: Even the person who every day brought its food was obliged to leave this at a distance: After some months' absence I returned: it knew me afar off, and as I observed the efforts it made to get at me, I ran to meet it; and never shall I forget the impression which the caresses and transports of this faithful animal made upon me. A friend, who was present at the meeting, could not forbear sympathizing with me, and partaking of my feelings."

It appears from the transactions of the New York society, that a successful attempt has been made to render the elk useful in agricultural labours. Mr. Livingston, president of the society, had two of these animals broken to the harness. Though they had been only twice bitted, and were two years old, they appeared to be equally docile with colts of the same age. They applied their whole strength to the draught, and went on a steady pace. Their mouths appeared very tender, and some care was necessary to prevent them from being injured by the bit. If, upon trial, it be found that elks can be rendered useful in harness, it will be a considerable acquisition to the Americans. As their trot is very rapid, it is probable that, in light carriages, they would out-

Superstitious notion respecting the elk.

travel the horse. They are also less delicate in their food than that animal, and are more productive than any other beast of burthen.

When suddenly roused, and endeavouring to make its escape, the elk is observed at times to fall down, as if deprived for some moments of motion. Whether this be owing to an epileptic fit, or whether it merely results from fear, cannot be easily ascertained. The fact, however, is too well authenticated to admit our doubting it. This has given rise to the popular superstition of attributing to the hoofs the virtue of an anti-epileptic medicine; and the Indians firmly believe that the elk has the power of curing itself of its own disorder, or of preventing an approaching fit, by scratching its ear with the hoof till it draws blood.

According to Charlevoix, the Indians have a superstitious notion that there is an elk of such an enormous size, that eight feet in depth of snow is no impediment to its walking; that its hide is proof against weapons of every description; and that it has an arm growing out of its shoulder subservient to the same purposes as that of man. They also say that this imaginary animal is attended by a vast number of other elks, which form his court, and render him every service that a sovereign can require of them. These simple people esteem the elk an animal of good omen, and believe that to dream of it repeatedly is an indication of long life.

Description.

The flesh of the elk is good, but the grain is coarse; the hide is so thick, that it has been often known to turn a musket ball; but when tamed, the leather is extremely light and pliable.

THE ELK ANTELOPE.

THIS animal is, in general, of an ash colour, inclining towards blue: a thin black mane extends from the nape of its neck along the back; and the tail is terminated with a tuft of black hair. The forehead is flat, and furnished with an erect fore-lock; the nose is sharp; and the breast is covered with a loose skin. The horns are about two feet in length, of a dark brown colour, marked with two prominent spiral ribs, running nearly two thirds of their length, but smooth toward the ends, which are a little incurvated. The female has horns like the male, but considerably smaller.

These quadrupeds are principally found in India, and the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope. They seem to prefer plains and valleys to the high grounds; and when chased, they always endeavour to run against the wind. Their pace is rather heavy, and as they are generally fat, they are soon fatigued. The hunter usually takes an opportunity of getting to windward of the animal, when he throws himself from his horse, and easily shoots the game. Dr. Sparrman observes,

that the Dutch sportsmen at the Cape have, in many instances, hunted elk antelopes for miles together from the open plains, and driven them to their own doors, before they thought it worth while to kill them.

THE HART BEEST.

THE height of this animal, according to Sparrman, is somewhat above four feet: the horns are black, and embossed with about eighteen rings of an irregular form: they are almost close to each other at the base, but diverge upwards, and bend backwards in a horizontal direction almost to the tips, which turn a little downwards. The general colour of the animal is that of cinnamon: the face and the fore part of the legs are marked with black; the hinder part of the haunch is covered with a wide black streak, which reaches down to the knee; and a narrow stripe of black runs from behind each ear all along the ridge of the neck; a dark brown oval spot extends over the back, and terminates just above the tail, which is slender, like that of an ass, and covered with long black hairs. About an inch below the eye there is a small pore, whence distils a sort of gum, or wax, which the Hottentots consider as a most excellent medicine. The legs are slender, with small hoofs and fetlocks.

The hair of this quadruped is remarkably fine; but its large head, high forehead, assinine head and tail, render it more unsightly than the other varieties of the antelope species. Its pace, when hunted, is a sort of heavy gallop; and when it has got a-head of its pursuers, it is frequently observed to turn round and stare them full in the face.

This animal is the cervine antelope of Mr. Pennant, and is supposed to be the bubalus of the ancients. Its flesh is said to be of a fine grain, and an agreeably high flavour.

THE GRIMM.

“THIS animal,” says Dr. Herman Grimmer, is, on the back and neck, of a dark ash colour, with a white belly; and its height is about a foot and a half. On the top of its head, between the horns, is a tuft of black hair, and between each eye and the nostrils is a cavity, filled with an oily, viscid, and yellow humour, which has some resemblance to castor and musk, and fills again upon the cavities being emptied.

In the year 1767, M. Vosmaer published a description of this quadruped; from which I have taken the liberty to extract the following account.

“This was one of the most beautiful animals I ever saw: it was sent from Guinea, with thir-

teen others of both sexes : but twelve died in their voyage to Holland; and those two which survived were put into the menagerie of the Prince of Orange, where one of them died the following winter. They are remarkably timid animals, and are much frightened at any noise, especially at thunder. The one now living (1766) though very wild at first, is become so familiar, that upon holding a piece of bread to him, and calling him by name, he will not only approach, but allow himself to be stroked. He is particularly cleanly, and will not suffer the smallest piece of dirt to remain on any part of his body, but is constantly scratching himself with his hind-feet. He is also very active, and when standing still, keeps one of his fore-legs in a bent position, which gives him a graceful appearance. He eats bread, rye, and carrots; is fond of potatoes; and is a ruminating animal. He is about the size of a kid of two months old, and his limbs are extremely well-proportioned: but his horns are rather too large, and have a small quantity of hair, which rises to a point between them. His head somewhat resembles that of a roe-buck; his nose is black and naked, but always moist, and his upper lip appears as if divided: he has no beard, but a kind of small whiskers on the sides, and a wart covered with hair under his chin. His horns are black, quite straight, and end with a sharp point; they are also furnished with three rings, which rise a little backward:

Description, &c.

from the black tuft between the horns a stripe of that colour runs down to the nose; his ears are large, with some short hairs on the inside, and on the tops, but all the other parts of them are black and naked. His eyes are large, and of a deep brown; and between the eyes and nose there are black cavities; from the middle of which a viscid gummy humour exudes, that soon becomes hard and black; but I could never perceive that odour which Dr. Grimmerius, and those who have followed him, describe it to possess. The upper part of the neck and head are of a yellowish grey, the back black, the sides a light brown, the belly grey, and the limbs white as far as the knees: the legs have a black band, and the hair becomes blackish toward the hoofs: the tail is very short, and white, with a black band on the upper part."

THE GNU.

THE gnu, or ox-headed antelope, is a very singular and extraordinary animal, combining in itself the beauty of the body, mane, and tail of the horse, with the powerful head and horns of the ox, and the fascinating eye of the antelope.

One of these quadrupeds lately exhibited in Holland, was, in size, equal, or superior, to a large stag; its horns were smooth, strong, pointed, and projecting forward to some distance from

the base, and then almost suddenly reverting upwards. Its colour was a dull brown, with a beard on the chin and throat, and some long black hair hanging from the breast. It had a stiff erect mane along the neck, extending to some distance over the shoulders, of a pale ash colour: it had a very large head, a square mouth, and the lips covered with a quantity of short and stiff bristles, and from the nose upward, ran a kind of square brush of those bristles reversed: the eyes were encircled with strong white bristles: the tail resembled that of a horse, and was thickly clothed with strong white hair: the body was thick and clumsy, but the limbs were light, and elegantly formed: each foot was marked with a black stripe above the hoof, and it had only one false hoof behind each foot, whereas other animals, having similarly formed feet, have always two.

The horns of the female are like those of the male, except when young, and then they are perfectly straight.

Mr. Pennant says, this animal, in a wild state, is exceedingly fierce and dangerous to travellers.

The gnu is a native of the southern parts of Africa; where they may be seen feeding in very large herds. The natives catch them for the hides and flesh, the last of which is said to be equal in flavour to the finest venison.

In order to procure these animals, a variety of methods are adopted by the Hottentots, who

Methods of taking the gnu.

practise them with astonishing dexterity. They sometimes form deep pit-falls, in the places they are known to frequent at night, over which is hung a kind of raft formed of large pieces of timber, which, immediately on the animal's descent, covers the pit completely, without which precaution, owing to his superior agility, he could easily effect his escape. His enemies in the morning surround the place, draw the raft a little aside, and quickly dispatch him with their spears and arrows.

During the day time, it is impossible for the hunters to attack them collectively; and it therefore becomes necessary, by various methods of fire and loud shouts, to detach some of them from the main herd; prior to which, they adopt the stratagem of fixing strong ropes with a running noose, wherever they find two trees near enough together, to answer their purpose. Through these passes the pursuers endeavour to urge the stragglers, who frequently, in the rapidity of flight, are caught in the snare, with such a sudden jerk, as to occasion their immediate death.

THE BLUE ANTELOPE.

THE skin of this animal, according to Sparrman's account, is of a fine blue, resembling velvet; but, when dead it changes to a bluish-grey

Blue antelope obtained by M. Le Vaillant.

colour. The breast and belly are white, and there is a broad white mark beneath each eye. The tail is about seven inches in length, and is covered with long hairs. The horns form a handsome curve, gracefully inclining backward: they are adorned with twenty-four rings or annulations; the uppermost quarter of the horn is very smooth, and runs tapering to a sharp point.

When M. Le Vaillant was at a place called Tiger-Hoec, at some distance from the Cape of Good Hope, he once saw such flocks of antelopes that the whole country seemed covered with them; when one of his Hottentots, who was armed with a fusee, running up to him, informed him that he perceived a *blaaw-bok*, or blue goat: squatting down, he then begged him to remain quiet, assuring him that he would soon put him in possession of the animal.

He immediately made a turn round, creeping on his knees, while his master, who had not perceived the animal, could not comprehend the meaning of this stratagem. Soon after it rose up, and began to browse quietly without removing from the place, appearing at a distance not unlike a white horse, till its horns became observable.

In the meantime the Hottentot continued to drag himself along on his belly, and approaching quickly near enough to take aim, fired at it, upon which it instantly fell. He then made up to the

M. Le Vaillant's description of the blue antelope.

the place, and had the pleasure of contemplating one of the most curious and beautiful species of antelope that Africa produces.

When he returned, he rewarded his Hottentot generously, and gave him one of his best knives, with which he flayed the animal with the same dexterity as he had killed it; and the skin was preserved as a valuable acquisition.

"This antelope," says Vaillant, has been described by Pennant, under the name of the blue antelope, and by Buffon under that of the *tseiran*. The latter has given the figure of a part of its horns: it is rare, and very little known. During my residence in Africa, I never saw more than two of these antelopes, and another which was brought to the governor some years before, when I lived at the Cape Town. These, as well as mine, came from the valley of Soete-Melk, the only canton which they inhabit. I was assured that I should see some of them in the country of the great Nimiquas; but, notwithstanding this information, and all my researches, I found myself disappointed; all the savages affirmed that they were unacquainted with them. I was assured also, that the female had horns, as well as the male; but I can say nothing on that head, since the three which I saw were all of the same kind.

"The principal colour of this animal is a faint blue, inclining to grey; but the belly and the

Instances of the colour being preserved after death.

interior parts of the legs, throughout their whole length, are as white as snow; and the head is beautifully spotted with white.

“ I did not observe,” continues he, “ as Dr. Sparrman says, that this antelope; when alive, resembles blue velvet, and that when dead the skin changes its colour; living or dead, it appeared to me always alike. The tints of that which I brought with me never varied. I saw another at Amsterdam, which had been kept for more than fifteen years. The case was the same with regard to that belonging to the governor of the Cape: it was still fresher than mine; but, in other respects, they were equal. I cannot help adding here, that I never found this animal properly represented in any of the engravings or figures which I have hitherto seen of it.”



CHAP. IX.

“ With shelly armour cloth'd instead of hair.
The banded armadillo, when attack'd,
Rolls down the precipice, and falls unhurt.”

ANON

THE ARMADILLO.

IN this singular quadruped nature seems to deviate from her characteristic uniformity, by covering it with a shell, or rather a number of shells, forming a complete coat of armour, instead of hair: it should seem that she has reserved all the wonders of her power for those remote and thinly inhabited countries where the men are savage, and the animals various; and in proportion as she retires from human inspection she becomes more extraordinary. But the fact is, that wherever mankind are polished or thickly planted, they soon exterminate those crude and monstrous productions which in a manner en-

Different species.

cumber the soil. In cultivated countries they soon disappear, and exist only in those remote deserts where they have no enemies to oppose them, and interrupt the promulgation of the race.

Pere D'Abbeville says, there are six species of the armadillo: but the principal difference between them consists in the number of bands, and divisions in their armour: some having but three bands between the large pieces, others six, eight, nine, or even twelve.

The number of their natural bands does not depend on the age of the animal, for, in the same species, the young and the adult have the same number.

In all the species the animal is protected by an osseous consistency, which covers the head, neck, back, and flanks, and even the tail, to the very extremity. The shell which covers the upper part of the body, differs from that of the tortoise, in being composed of several pieces, which lie in bands over the body, and, as in the tail of a lobster, slide over each other, and in the same manner are connected by an elastic yellow membrane; by this means the armour easily gives way to all the necessary inflexions.

The only parts to which this armour does not extend are the throat, breast, and belly; and these are covered with a delicate white skin, not unlike that of a fowl stripped of its feathers. On a minute examination, those naked parts appear

to be covered with the rudiments of shells of a similar substance with those which cover the upper parts of the body. Even the tenderest parts of the skin, on being exposed, seem to have a natural tendency to ossify, or become hard: but this ossification can only be complete on those parts which remain exposed to the weather; and are least subject to friction.

In different kinds the shells are variously coloured, but the most common is a dirty grey. This colour is owing to a peculiar circumstance in their conformation, for the shell is covered with a thin, sleek, transparent skin.

The armadillo is incapable of much exertion; and can therefore make but a slight resistance against an enemy. The firmness of its shell might, however, defend it from feeble antagonists; nature having given it the same method of defending itself as the hedgehog: when first attacked, it instantly withdraws its head beneath its shell, suffering nothing to be seen but the tip of the nose: on the increase of danger the animal cautiously tucks up its feet under its belly, and unites its two extremities, while the tail serves as a band to strengthen the connexion; and thus it appears like a solid ball, flattened at the sides, in which state it appears like an inanimate log, and might be rolled or tossed about without opening: and it is even asserted, that when attacked near the edge of a precipice it

Mode of taking the armadillo.

frequently rolls itself down, and falls unhurt. Its disposition is perfectly harmless and inoffensive; and as it possesses no power of repelling an enemy, so it may be attacked without danger, and is, consequently, liable to the various persecutions of man and beast.

The sharp and strong claws of these quadrupeds enable them to burrow in the ground with great dexterity, and as this is their only resource on the approach of an enemy, they require but a few moments advantage, in which case, the mole itself does not burrow quicker. In the act of digging they are sometimes taken by the tail, but so strong is their resistance, and so difficult is it to draw them backwards, that they frequently save their lives with the loss of that appendage. To avoid this, the hunters generally have recourse to artifice: they tickle the animals under the throat with a small stick, till they relinquish their hold, and suffer themselves to be taken alive without further resistance.

When the Indian hunters find one of these animals rolled up, they lay it before a large fire, the heat of which obliges it to unfold itself.

When they have taken refuge deep under ground, many expedients are adopted to force them out, sometimes by overwhelming them with a deluge of water, and at others, by filling the hole with smoke; but they are more frequently caught in snares, placed by the sides of rivers,

lakes, and low moist grounds, which they frequent.

A small species of dogs are also bred by the natives to the chase of the armadillo, which quickly overtake it, especially if it happen to stray to any distance from its hole. Of this, however, it is very cautious.

The flesh of the smaller kind is said to be very delicate; in consequence of which it is persecuted and pursued with unremitting industry. The shells are also manufactured by the Indians into boxes, baskets, and other useful ornamental articles. Their swiftest motion is a kind of quick walk, but they can neither leap, run, nor climb trees, so that if found in an open place, they have little chance of effecting their escape.

It is reported that the armadillo has no apprehensions from the rattle snake, as they frequently live in the same hole or burrow for a long time together, on terms of the most perfect amity.

The armadillo is a native of the New World, and is principally found in the hottest parts of South America; yet it seems capable of subsisting in temperate regions. Buffon says, he formerly saw one domesticated in Languedoc which was regularly fed at home, and took his regular rounds, without doing the least mischief.

"The species," says Shaw, "are often determined by the number of shelly zones on the body; in enumerating these, however, it is re-

markable that most authors vary; and the exact discrimination of all the species seems yet a desideratum in natural history; this, perhaps arises partly from the inattention of draughtsmen and engravers, when representing the animals, and partly from different authors counting differently the bands on some of the species, which are so placed as to make it difficult in some instances to distinguish the ultimate, or bounding zones of the body, from the scaly divisions on the fore and hind-parts, and which, like the bands, are disposed into a kind of zones though less strongly marked. Some species, however, are so clearly defined by this mode of distinction, as to be at all times readily ascertained."

The zones, or bands, of the nine-banded armadillo are extremely distinct, and well defined, being transversely marked by a number of triangular figures. The head and snout are longer, and more taper than those of any of the rest of the species: the tail is likewise longer and sharper, and the ears larger and erect: it has four toes on the fore-feet, and five on the hind.

The above rule, however, is liable to variations; for the Comte de Buffon remarks, that specimens of this kind have been observed with eight bands only, which in every other respect perfectly resembled the nine-banded ones: it is, therefore, his opinion, that the number of bands in this species, may probably constitute not a specific but a sexual difference: thus the eight-banded

Various species.

one might be the male, and the nine-banded the female.

The three-banded armadillo is said by travellers to be the most elegant of the species. It is of a fine cream colour, and the pattern of the shell is remarkably beautiful, and well defined; the divisions are curiously studded, or embossed; and the three zones of the body are peculiarly distinct; the feet and claws are more delicately formed than those of the other varieties.

The species generally known by the name of the twelve-banded armadillo, has sometimes thirteen or fourteen bands. It has a broad and thick head, marked above in broad angular divisions: the ears are broad and upright; each foot is armed with five strong claws, and the tail is guarded by scaly tubercles irregularly scattered.

The following is a description of the weasel-headed or eighteen-banded Armadillo, as given from a specimen preserved in the Museum of the Royal Society, in the last century.

The figure of the head was nearly like that of the weasel, from which it derived its appellation. It was three inches and a half long, the forehead very flat; and two inches and a half broad; the extremity of the nose half an inch. Its eyes were about a quarter of an inch long; the ears an inch, and two inches distant one from another. Its body was eleven inches long, and six broad: the tail five inches and a half long, being at the base an inch and a quarter over, and at

Description.

the extremity about the sixth of an inch. The fore-leg was two inches and a half long, and three quarters broad: on the foot were five toes, the three foremost of which were an inch in length, and the other two half an inch, all furnished with claws about the third of an inch. The hind-foot which was somewhat thicker than the fore, had five toes. The head, back, sides, legs, and tail, were covered with a shelly armour. The head-piece, as also the shells on the legs, were composed of roundish scales, a quarter of an inch over. The neck-piece was a single plate, composed of little pieces, a quarter of an inch square. The shoulder-piece consisted of several rows or ranks of such square pieces, but not set together by any articulation or moveable junction. The back-piece reached over the buttocks to the tail, and was composed of plates, moveably joined together by as many intermediate skins. The foremost and broadest of these plates consisted of square pieces, half an inch long and a quarter broad; the hindmost of square and round ones together. The fore-part of the tail was surrounded with six rings, consisting of little square pieces, the other half with scales. The extreme part of the shell, next the tail, was parabolic. The belly, breast, and ears, perfectly naked.

On the larger kinds of these animals the shell is thicker and more solid than in the smaller, and the flesh coarser and frequently unfit to eat.

The smaller kinds frequent the vicinity of lakes, brooks, and rivers, where they subsist on roots, succulent herbs, and water-melons. But the larger species seek the upland, and are generally found in the sides of rocks and mountains.

Those with the fewest bands are least capable of defending themselves, and, when rolled up, present vulnerable interstices between the zones, by which they are liable to be wounded by the rudest weapon.

THE PANGOLIN.

“ WERE we to judge of nature,” says an intelligent writer, “ from definitions only, we should never be induced to suppose that there existed a race of viviparous quadrupeds destitute of hair, and furnished with scales and shells in their stead. However, nature, every way various, supplies us with many instances of these extraordinary creatures; the old world has its quadrupeds covered with scales, and the new with shells. In both they resemble each other, as well in the strangeness of their appetites, as their awkward conformation. Like animals but partially made up, and partaking of different natures, they want those instincts which animals formed but for one element alone are found to possess. They seem to be a kind of strangers in

Distinctions between the pangolin and lizard.

nature, creatures, taken from some other element, and capriciously thrown to find a precarious subsistence upon land."

Some naturalists have, perhaps rather injudiciously, confounded the pangolin with the scaly lizard; a circumstance which Buffon justly observes, might be productive of great error, and occasion its being confounded with an animal which it resembles only in its general form, and being covered with scales.

The following obvious distinction may be made between the pangolin and the lizard: the latter is a reptile produced from an egg, and completely covered with scales; while the former is destitute of any such marks, either on the neck, breast, or belly. The lizard's scales, adhere to the body closer than even those of fishes, while those of the pangolin, are only fixed at one end, and capable of being erected at pleasure, like the quills of the porcupine. The pangolin, also, instead of being a defenceless creature, like the lizard, rolls itself up like the hedgehog, and presents the points of its scales, so as effectually to annoy the most dangerous enemy.

Including the tail, which is nearly equal to the body in length, this animal measures from six to eight feet. The head is small, the nose very long and taper, and the neck short, thick, and strong; the legs are short, and the feet furnished with five toes, each armed with long white claws. The jaws are destitute of teeth, and

Varieties of the pangolin.

the mouth and tongue very long and narrow. A strong scaly armour defends all the upper parts of the body; but the under part of the head and neck, the breast, belly, and inner parts of the legs and thighs, are covered with a soft and delicate skin, entirely destitute of scales or hair.

The shells or scales of this extraordinary quadruped, are of various forms and dimensions, and are stuck on the surface of the skin like the leaves on an artichoke: and between the interstices of the scales appear a number of stout hairs like hog's bristles, yellow at the root, and brown towards the points.

Of this genus of quadrupeds, naturalists formerly reckoned but two species, the long and the short-tailed manis; but another has been recently introduced to public notice under the appellation of the broad-tailed manis, and which is denominated in the sixtieth volume of the Philosophical Transactions, the *new* manis.

The long-tailed manis is distinguished by the Indians by the name of phatagen, whence Buffon calls it *le phatagin*. The form of this animal is much more slender than the rest of the species; the snout is tapering, and very narrow; the tail is more than twice the length of the whole body, and tapers gradually like that of a lizard to the extremity. All the upper parts of the body and limbs are covered with sharp pointed scales, streaked throughout their whole length. It has very short legs, and the feet are furnished with

Why called the stone vermin.

four claws each, the fore ones, however, being much stronger and sharper than the hind. The general colour is a deep brown, reflecting a yellowish cast from the highly polished surface of the scales. The whole length of this creature is frequently five feet and upwards.

The short-tailed manis is found in various parts of India; and the natives give it the name of pangoelling; but the provincial appellation in the neighbourhood of Bengal is *vajracite*, or thunderbolt reptile, from the extreme hardness of its scales, which are said to be capable of striking fire like a flint.

The natives of Malabar call it *alungu*, and those of Bahar *bajar-cit*, or stone-vermin, from a remarkable property which it is said to possess, of swallowing stones. In the stomach of one of these animals, we are told, above a tea-cup full of stones have been found, which it was supposed to have swallowed in order to facilitate digestion.

Travellers assert, that this animal is found in various parts of Guinea, where it is called *quogelo* by the negroes. It frequents the woods and marshy places, where, like the ant-eater, it seeks out the ant-hills, and laying its tongue across their paths, collects and devours numbers of them at a time. Its pace is very slow, and it generally seeks its security in rolling itself up, when the most ferocious animal hardly dare attack it for fear of being lacerated by the sharp

points and edges of its scales. It is said, that it will wreath itself round the trunk of the elephant, in such a manner that even that powerful animal can scarcely extricate itself from its grasp. This animal is sometimes six, seven, and even eight feet in length.

Some writers are inclined to believe that the animal called the broad-tailed manis, is merely a variation in the species, probably owing to the differences of sex and age.

One of these animals was caught rolled up in the cavity of the wall of a merchant's house in Tranquebar; whence it was with great difficulty drawn and destroyed. Its scales were of the shape of a muscle, the exterior ones ending in a very sharp point; the tail was in the broadest part half an ell and a span over.

The proportional form and breadth of the tail frequently varies in the different specimens; some of them being remarkably broad and rounded, some less obtuse at the tips, and others irregularly marked, as though battered and worn by age.

"These animals," Goldsmith observes, "though so formidable in appearance, are the most harmless and inoffensive of all creatures. They are even unqualified by nature from the want of teeth, to injure other animals. It should seem that the bony matter which in other creatures go to supply the teeth, is exhausted in this genus, in supplying the scales which cover the body.

Extraordinary length of the tongue.

However this may be, the lives of these animals seem correspondent to their peculiar conformation. Incapable of being carnivorous, or of subsisting on vegetables, which require much chewing, they live entirely upon insects for which nature has fitted them in a very extraordinary manner."

The nose of the pangolin is very long, whence it is natural to suppose that the tongue is likewise long; but in order still to increase this length, it is so folded up in the mouth, that, when extended, it is shot out to about a quarter of a yard beyond the point of the nose: it is round, extremely red, and covered with an unctuous and slimy liquor, which gives it a shining hue; by stretching out this tongue among the ants, it collects vast numbers of them, till they grow cautious, and will no longer be allured to destruction. It is against those noxious insects therefore, that its only art and cunning is exerted, and were the natives but sufficiently sensible of its utility, in destroying one of the greatest pests of their country, they would not be so eager to kill it. But it has been justly remarked, that savage men are only anxious to pursue immediate good, without being solicitous about the distant benefit they remove.

THE TORTOISE.

THERE have been the greatest diversity of opinions among naturalists, in their endeavours to discriminate the several species of tortoises, from their general similarity in shape and conformation, and their variation in size and colour, according to the different periods of age and growth.

Linnaeus, in the *Systema Naturæ*, enumerates fifteen species; but his specific characters are insufficient for the purpose of accurate discrimination. The obscurity is rather increased than dispelled by the descriptions of the Count de Ceppe, in his *History of Oviparous Quadrupeds*; and a confusion of synonyms and references seems to prevail throughout the writings of almost all other authors on this subject. Hence the varieties can hardly be distinguished by any thing more than the form of the head, and the colours, shape, and pattern of the shell.

The common tortoise is found in many parts of Africa, in Greece, and almost all the countries bordering on the Mediterranean; also in Sardinia, Corsica, and all the European islands of the Archipelago.

The length of its shell seldom exceeds eight or nine inches, nor does it weigh in general more than three pounds. The shell, which, as in most of the other species, is composed of thirteen middle pieces, and about twenty-five marginal ones,

is of an oval form, extremely convex, and broader behind than before. The middle part is of a blackish brown varied with yellow. The under part or belly of the shell is of a pale yellow, with a broad dark line down each side, leaving the middle plain. The head is not large, nor does the opening of the mouth extend beyond the eyes: the upper part is covered with irregular scales. The legs are short, and the feet moderately broad and covered with strong scales. The tail, which is rather shorter than the legs, is also covered with scales, but terminates in a horny tip.

This animal resides principally in burrows that it forms in the ground, where it sleeps the greatest part of its time, appearing abroad only a few hours in the middle of the day. In the autumn it hides itself for the winter, remaining torpid for four or five months, and not again making its appearance till the spring. About the beginning of June, the female scratches a hole in some warm situation, in order to deposit her eggs. These are hatched in September, at which time the young are about the size of a large walnut.

The tortoise is an animal that has ever been remarkable for the extreme slowness of its motions. This, according to La Cépède, seems principally occasioned by the position of the legs, which are thrown very much to the sides of the body, and are considerably spread out from

Slowness of motion.

each other. It may likewise be in some degree caused by the great weight of the shell pressing on this unfavourable position of the legs. In walking, the claws of the fore-feet are rubbed separately, and one after another against the ground; when one of the feet is placed on the ground, the inner claw first bears the weight of the body, and so on along the claws in succession, to the outermost. The foot in this manner acts somewhat like a wheel, as if the animal wished scarcely to raise its feet from the earth, and endeavoured to advance by means of a succession of partial steps of its toes or claws, for the purpose of more firmly supporting the great weight of its body and shell.

A tortoise was many years kept in a domestic state in the garden belonging to the College of Physicians, London. It would eat almost any thing, but seemed to prefer fruits, leaves, grass, corn, or bran; however, when food fell short, it would not hesitate to prey on insects, worms, or snails.

The upper part of the shell of this animal was prominent, the under part flat: it was of a yellowish ground, clouded with irregular dark spots; the whole divided into many compartments, or separate scales, with furrows, or creases, all round, diminishing gradually, one within another, to the center of each scale: the head was covered with scales of a dull yellow: the irides

Le Vaillant's account of the African tortoises.

were of a reddish hazel, and the lips hard and corneous: the neck, the hind-legs, and tail, were covered with a dull flesh-coloured skin; and the outsides of the fore-legs, which were exposed when the head was drawn in, were covered with yellow scales.

M. Le Vaillant observes, that, during his travels in Africa, near his encampment in the neighbourhood of Tiger-Hoec, he found these animals in great plenty.

“The weather being cool and cloudy,” says he, “we marched six hours, in order to reach the borders of a large pond, abounding with tortoises, of which we caught about twenty. We broiled them all in the same manner, on the coals, and found them excellent. They were from seven to eight inches in length, and about four in breadth. The shell on the back was of a whitish grey colour, inclining a little to yellow: when alive, they had a disagreeable smell; but by roasting them, it was entirely destroyed.

“It is very remarkable that when the waters are dried up by excessive heat, the tortoises, which always seek for moisture, bury themselves under the earth in proportion as the surface of it becomes dry: to find them it is then sufficient to dig to a considerable depth, in the spot where they have concealed themselves.

“They generally remain as if asleep, and never awaken, or make their appearance, until the rainy season has supplied the ponds, and

small lakes, with water, on the borders of which they deposit their eggs, which are as large as those of a pigeon: they leave to the heat and the sun the care of hatching them.

"These eggs have an excellent taste; the white, which never becomes hard by the force of fire, preserves the transparency of a blueish jelly.

"I do not know whether this instinct be common to every species of water tortoises, and whether they all employ the same means; but this I can assert, that every time, during the great droughts, when I wished to procure any of them, by digging in those places where there had been water, I always found as many as I had occasion for.

"This method of fishing, or whatever else it may be called, was not new to me; for at Surinam, a stratagem of the same kind is employed to catch two species of fish, which bury themselves also; and which are called, one the *varappe*, and the other *gorret*."

The account given by the Rev. Mr. White, of the manners and habits of a domesticated tortoise in England, is highly interesting, and will tend to illustrate the description of this animal.

"A tortoise," says the above author, in his History of Selborne, "which had been kept thirty years in a little walled court, retires underground about the middle of November, and comes forth again about the middle of April:

when it first appears in the spring, it discovers very little inclination for food, but in the height of summer grows voracious; and then, as the summer declines, its appetite declines, so that for the last six weeks in autumn it hardly eats at all. Milky plants, such as lettuces, dandelions, sow-thistles, &c. are its principal food.

“ On the first of November, 1771, I observed the tortoise began to dig the ground, in order to form its hybernaculum, which it had fixed on just before a great tuft of hepaticus. It scrapes out the ground with its fore-feet, and throws it up over its back with its hind ones; but the motion of its legs is ridiculously slow, little exceeding the hour-hand of a clock. Nothing can be more assiduous than this creature night and day, in scooping the earth, and forcing its body into the cavity; but as the noons of that season proved unusually warm and sunny, it was continually interrupted, and called forth by the heat in the middle of the day, and though I continued there till the thirteenth of November, yet the work remained unfinished. Harsher weather, and frosty mornings, would have quickened its operations.

“ No part of its behaviour ever struck me more than the extreme timidity it always expressed with regard to rain, for though it has a shell which would secure it against the wheel of a loaded cart, yet does it discover as much solicitude about rain, as a lady dressed in all her best

Proof of sagacity.

attire, shuffling away on the first sprinkling, and running its head up in a corner.

“ If attended to, it becomes an excellent weather-glass, for as sure as it walks elate, and as it were on tip-toe, feeding with great earnestness, in a morning, so sure it will rain before night: it is totally a diurnal animal, and never attempts to stir out after it becomes dark.

“ The tortoise, like other reptiles, has an arbitrary stomach, as well as lungs, and can refrain from eating, as well as breathing, for a great part of the year.

“ I was much taken with its sagacity, in discerning those that do it kind offices; for as soon as the good old lady comes in sight, who has waited on it for more than thirty years, it hobbles towards its benefactress, with an awkward alacrity, but remains inattentive to strangers. Thus, not only ‘ the ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib,’ but the most abject and torpid of beings, distinguishes the hand that feeds it, and is touched with the feelings of gratitude. This creature not only goes under the earth from the middle of November to the middle of April, but sleeps great part of the summer; for it goes to bed, in the longest days, at four in the afternoon, and often does not stir in the morning till late. Besides, it retires to rest for every shower, and does not move at all in wet days.”

This animal is said to live to a most extraordi-



LAND TORTOISE.



Surprising longevity.

nary age; and very ample evidence has been produced of its exceeding even the period of a century. One that was introduced into the garden of Lambeth palace in the time of archbishop Laud, was living in the year 1753, a hundred and twenty years afterwards: at last it perished, from an unfortunate neglect of the gardener; and the shell which measures ten inches in length, and six and a half in breadth, is said to be still preserved in the palace. In the year 1765, a tortoise was living in the garden of a gentleman, at Sandwich, in Kent, which was known to have been there from about the year 1679, but how long before that period no one could say with certainty. There is, however, good reason for supposing it to have been brought thither from the West Indies by a gentleman who was owner of the premises several years before the first period. This animal died in the winter of 1767. It appeared that it had endeavoured, according to its annual custom, to burrow into the ground; but having selected for this purpose a spot near an old vine, its progress was obstructed by the roots, and it probably had not sufficient strength to change its situation, as it was found dead with only half its body covered. About thirty years before its death, it got out of the garden, and was much injured by the wheel of a loaded waggon, which went over it, and cracked its upper shell.

Several cruel experiments have been made to

Cruel experiments.

prove the extreme tenacity of the vital principle in this animal; and those of Rhedi, in particular, are revolting to humanity and disgraceful to science. In one instance he made a large opening in the skull of a full grown tortoise, and drew out all the brain, washing the cavity, so as not to leave the smallest part remaining, and then, with the hole open, set the animal at liberty. It marched off, as he says, without seeming to have received the slightest injury, save from the closing of its eyes, which it never afterwards opened. In a short time the hole was observed to close, and in about three days a complete skin covered the wound: in this manner the animal lived, without the brain, for six months, walking about, and still moving its limbs as it did previously to the operation.

In Greece these animals form an article of food. The inhabitants also swallow the blood without any culinary preparation, and are very partial to the eggs, when rendered palatable by boiling. In the gardens of some parts of Italy, wells are formed for the purpose of burying the eggs of the tortoise. These remain till the ensuing spring, when, by the natural warmth of the climate, they are hatched, and the young ones come forth. The tortoises are kept in banks of earth.

The tortoise, when turned on its back, begins to rock its body, gradually increasing the motion, till it is enabled to turn itself completely over,

and regain its legs. The strength of its jaws is so great that if it fasten on any object, an iron bar can scarcely force them open; and even when the head is cut off, they will adhere firmly, in consequence of the astonishing rigidity of the muscles, which do not relax even in death.

We have never heard that any of the species ever experience a renovation of the shell, which affords it a secure asylum from every enemy but man.

THE ANT-EATER.

THERE are three different species of this genus of animals in South America, which M. Buffon has distinguished by the names of the tamanoi, the tamandua, and the fourmillier, or ant-eater; it is, likewise, known by the appellation of the ant-bear; the distinguishing characteristics of which are, a long snout, a small mouth, without teeth, and a long cylindrical tongue, generally folded up in the mouth, with which the animal penetrates into the ant-nests, and draws out the ants, which constitute its principal food.

The first species, to which the French settlers in America have given the name of tamanojr, is about four feet long from the snout to the insertion of the tail; the head is fourteen or fifteen inches; and the snout is so disproportionate, that

Mode of defence.

its length makes nearly a fourth part of the whole figure.

At a distance, this animal looks like a great fox, and some travellers, for that reason, call him the American fox. He is possessed of great strength and agility, which render him capable of defending himself against a large dog, and even the jaguar will sometimes yield to his superior prowess.

When attacked, he raises himself on his hind-legs, and makes use of his fore-legs to defend himself, in the same manner as the bear. After seizing his adversary with his talons, he falls on his back, and fights with the most invincible obstinacy to the last extremity. His skin is almost invulnerable from its thickness, being covered with a long bushy hair, in consequence of which he generally comes off victorious.

The legs of this quadruped are about a foot long; the fore-legs are more slender and somewhat higher than those behind, and armed with four strong claws, the middle ones being considerably longer than the rest. The hind-feet have five claws. The body and head are covered with black and white hair; and the tail is long, tufted, and flattened towards the end; with this appendage the animal sometimes shelters itself from the rain, or heat of the sun, by throwing it over its back: when perfectly composed, it sweeps the way with it as it goes; but when agitated, it moves briskly to either side.

Varieties.

This creature is a very bad walker, and its pace is so slow, that a man can easily overtake it: the feet, however, are well calculated for climbing; and it grasps the limbs of trees, or other round bodies, with such violence, as to render it very difficult to disengage it.

The second of these animals, called by the natives tamandua, is much smaller than the former, being no more than eighteen inches from the snout to the insertion of the tail: the head is about five inches long, the ears erect, and about an inch in length; the tail ten inches, and naked at the end: the tongue is round, eight inches long, and lodged in a kind of hollow canal within the lower jaw: the feet and claws are of the same construction as those of the former; and the animal climbs, walks, and acts, exactly in the same manner; its tail, however, is not capable of sheltering it; it sleeps with its head under its fore-legs.

The third of this tribe which the French call fourmillier, or ant-eater, is from the snout to the tail about seven inches long, the head little more than two inches, but thick in proportion to the body; the eyes are situated but at a small distance from the corners of the mouth; the ears small, and almost concealed by the hair, which is smooth, shining, and curiously diversified with red and yellow. The legs are about three inches high; the hind-feet are furnished with four claws, whereas the fore ones have no more than two.

Singular method of procuring prey.

This quadruped climbs trees with great dexterity, and accustoms itself to hang on the boughs by the tail. It also frequently hides itself beneath the roots of bushes and trees, under the fallen leaves.

The method which the ant-eater adopts in order to procure its prey is very singular. When it approaches the ant-hills, with which the new continent abounds, it creeps slowly forward on its belly, using every precaution to keep itself concealed, till it come within a proper distance. It then lays itself down and thrusts out its long tongue across the path of the ants, and there lets it lie motionless for several minutes. The little busy insects, some of which are half an inch long, considering this as a worm, or piece of flesh thrown before them, issue forth, and swarm over it; but wherever they touch, they are immediately entangled in a kind of glutinous fluid, with which it is covered; and when the animal perceives a sufficient number collected, it draws in its tongue, and devours them in a moment. It continues to repeat this experiment till it has appeased its hunger: after which, it retires to its hiding-place to repose; and thus the industry of an hour frequently yields it a sufficient supply for several days together.

The ant-hills here alluded to are sometimes five or six feet high, and so abundantly inhabited, as to afford sustenance to one of these animals for a considerable length of time.

The three species of ant-eaters above mentioned, though differing materially in size and proportion, are nevertheless very similar in their common conformation, and natural instinct. They all feed upon ants, in their wild state, and sometimes regale themselves with the honey, which they find in the hollow trees in the woods: it appears that they are all capable of subsisting a long time without food. When taken young, they are easily tamed and domesticated, when they will eat small pieces of meat, and crumbs of bread, from the hand, without fear or apprehension: when they drink, it is remarkable that they swallow only a portion of the liquor, while the remainder of it is returned through the nostrils. They commonly sleep in the day, and shift their station at night. Their flesh is frequently eaten by the natives; but it is very coarse, tough, and unsavory.

These animals are only to be found in the rudest and most uncultivated parts of the New World, and, indeed, as Goldsmith observes, "if we examine through the various regions of the earth, we shall find that all the most active, sprightly, and useful quadrupeds, have been gathered round man, and either served his pleasures, or still maintained their independence by their vigilance, their cunning, or their industry. It is in the remote solitudes that we are to look for the helpless, the deformed, and the monstrous births of nature. They therefore retire for safety

Description, &c.

into the darkest forests, or the most desert mountains, where none of the bolder or swifter animals chuse to reside."

God, in the nature of each being founds
Its proper bliss, and sets its proper bounds:
But as he fram'd a whole, the whole to bless,
On mutual wants built mutual happiness;
So, from the first, eternal order ran,
And creature link'd to creature, man to man.

POPE.

THE FERRET.

THIS animal is known to us only in a domestic state, but was, according to the best authorities, originally a native of Africa, whence it was imported into Spain, and from its known enmity to rabbits, it was employed to free that country from the multitudes of those animals with which it was in a manner over-run.

The body of the ferret is about twelve or fourteen inches in length, the nose is sharper than that of the common weasel: the ears are short and round, and the eyes exceedingly red, and full of fire: the body is very slender, and the legs are short.

The common colour of these animals is a pale yellow, with sometimes a shade of black at the points of the hairs; but they are also found of various other colours, such as party-coloured, brown, white, and black.

In a domestic state the ferret is incapable of attachment, it is easily irritated, and will frequently seize the hand that feeds it. So voracious is it, and so eager its appetite for blood, that the female frequently devours her whole litter of seven or eight young, and instances have been known of its killing young infants in their cradles. The bite of this animal is very difficult to heal; and the fetid odour which it exhales is extremely offensive.

The breed of the ferret, being apt to degenerate in this country, an intercourse is commonly procured between the female and the fougart or pole-cat; by which means a race is procured, bolder, hardier, and more ferocious, partaking much of the nature of the males, and being of a darker colour than the female.

Nature seems to have formed this animal to be the mortal enemy of the rabbit. If a dead rabbit be laid before a very young ferret which has never seen one before, it seizes on it in the most savage manner, nor, without the greatest violence, will be induced to relinquish its hold. If a living rabbit be presented, it darts upon it with almost irresistible eagerness, penetrates its neck with its teeth, winds its body round it, and retains it position, as long as a drop of blood is to be procured.

The ferret, being originally a native of the torrid zone, is not able to endure the rigors of a cold climate, in a wild state; and, in its domes-

Ferrets trained to chase rabbits.

ticated condition, it requires a considerable degree of attention and indulgence. Hence it is usually accommodated with a hutch or box, furnished with a quantity of wool, with which it forms a warm bed, and in which it sleeps the greater part of the day, but its disposition is so ravenous that the moment it awakes, it evinces the utmost eagerness for a supply of food.

The ferret is regularly trained, by warreners, to chase the rabbits in their burrows; in this employment care is always taken to muzzle it, that it may only drive the rabbits out into the nets, which are spread before the entrance of those retreats; as it would otherwise destroy, and leave them in their holes.

It sometimes happens that the ferret disengages itself from its muzzle, whilst in the hole; when there is the greatest danger of its being lost, for, after being satiated with blood, it falls asleep, and then it is almost impossible to rouse, or get at it.

When this happens, the usual methods of recovering the ferret are, by digging it out, making a fire at the entrance, or smoking the hole. If these measures do not succeed, it continues among the rabbit holes during the summer, subsisting upon the prey which it finds there; however, on the arrival of winter, being unable to sustain the cold of that season, it is sure to perish.

In mills, barns, and granaries, this little qua-

druped is of the greatest utility, being extremely active and vigilant in the pursuit of vermin, which will not remain within scent of it.

A very young ferret will sometimes attack the largest and fiercest rat, which frequently drags it about a considerable time, before it is able to subdue it.

Attempts have frequently been made to maintain these animals on ship-board, for the purpose of destroying the rats, which are so prejudicial to vessels, and their cargoes; but this mode of life appears to agree with them so ill, that it is very seldom they can be preserved any length of time.

Some writers have been inclined to doubt, whether or not the polecat and ferret were animals of two different species; perhaps their near resemblance in colour, first gave rise to this uncertainty, but this doubt now seems cleared up, by proof: a native of temperate climates, the polecat is an animal wild like the marten; whereas the ferret, originally an inhabitant of hot countries, can only exist in our climate, in a domestic state.

To this species may be referred the vansire, or Madagascar weasel, which differs from the former only in the number of its grinding teeth and the length of its tail.

Buffon likewise mentions another animal of this species, under the name of nems, resembling

the ferret in every thing but colour, and which is a native of Arabia.

The head and back of this animal are of a darkish brown hue, slightly mixed with white; the breast and belly are of a bright yellow, as is also that part of the head round the eyes; a tincture of brown, more or less, prevails on the nose, cheeks, and other parts of the face, where the hair is shorter and smoother than on the body; this colour gradually terminates above the eyes. The legs are of a deep yellow, and covered with short, thick, and compact hair: it has four toes on each foot, and a small one behind: the claws are small, sharp, and black: the tail is nearly twice the length of that of the common ferret, and exceedingly thick at the base; it is covered with a long and thick hair, like that on the body, and terminates in a sharp point.

This little animal is much caressed by the Arabs on account of its great assiduity in destroying serpents, insects, and vermin.

THE POLECAT.

THE general form of the polecat so nearly resembles that of the ferret, as to induce many persons to suppose them one and the same animal; but, on a careful examination, several striking differences may be noticed. This quadru-

ped is considerably larger than the ferret, its nose is blunter, and its body not quite so slender. It also differs in its internal conformation; having but fourteen ribs, whereas the ferret has fifteen; and wanting one of the breast-bones, which is found in the ferret.

The polecat is, for the most part, of a deep chocolate colour, inclining to black on the throat, feet, and tail. The ears are short, rounded, and tipped with white; there is also some white about the nose; and a little beyond the corners of the mouth a stripe begins, and runs backward, partly white and partly yellow. The claws are white beneath, and brown above; and the tail is about two inches and a half in length.

Rabbits seem to be the favourite prey of these animals, and a single polecat is often sufficient to destroy a whole warren; as its insatiable thirst for blood propels it to kill many more than it can possibly devour; and Goldsmith observes, that he has seen twenty rabbits at a time taken out dead, which a polecat had destroyed, and that by a wound scarcely perceptible.

The polecat is likewise particularly destructive among pigeons, as it gets into the dove-house with very little noise; dispatches each of its victims with a single wound in the head; and, after killing a great number, and satiating itself with their blood, it begins to carry them off, one by one, to its subterraneous retreat; or if it happen that the aperture by which it got into the dove

Depredations.

house be not large enough for the body of a pigeon to pass through, the mischievous depredator contents itself with carrying away the heads, and makes a most luxurious feast on the brains. The polecat is also very destructive to all kinds of young game; and is extremely fond of honey, attacking the hives in winter, and forcing the bees away.

During cold weather, when their prey is not easily found in the woods, polecats take up their residence in the vicinity of houses, and they have sometimes been known to burrow near a village so as scarcely to be extirpated. In the summer season, however, they generally reside in woods, or thick brakes, making holes in the ground of about five or six feet deep.

The female usually produces five or six young at a time, and soon trains them to habits of rapine and cruelty, supplying them very early with the blood of such animals as she happens to seize in her excursions.

The polecat seems to be a native of the temperate climates; as it is rarely found towards the north, or in the warmer latitudes. The fur, though soft and warm, is held in little estimation, on account of its disagreeable smell.

Description—Insupportable odour.

THE SQUASH.

THE squash, or stifling, is about the size of a polecat. Its hair is long and of a deep brown colour; and whether considered with respect to its figure, odour, or disposition, it belongs to the weasel kind; though it differs from all the other varieties, in having only four instead of five toes on the fore-feet. It is a native of Mexico, and is principally found in subterraneous holes, excavated rocks, &c. where the female brings forth her young. Its food, for the most part, consists of beetles, worms, and small birds, and it is very destructive to poultry, of which, however, it only eats the brains.

When alarmed or irritated, this animal emits the most horrid scent, which is, in fact, its chief means of protection. When pursued it does all in its power to escape; but if driven to an extremity, it discharges its urine upon the hunters; this is of so virulent a nature as to occasion certain blindness if any of it happen to fall into the eyes, and if it but touch any part of a man's garment it is more than probable that he can never wear it again. The dogs themselves abate of their ardor when they find this extraordinary battery played off against them: they instantly turn tail, and leave the animal undisputed master of the field; and no exhortations can ever induce them to rally.

Effects of the animal's stench.

"In the year 1749," says Professor Kalm, "one of these animals came near the farm where I lived. It was in winter time, during the night; and the dogs that were upon the watch pursued it for some time, until it discharged against them. Although I was in my bed, a good way off, I thought I should have been suffocated; and the cows and oxen, by their lowings, showed how much they were affected by the stench. About the end of the same year, another of these animals crept into our cellar, but did not exhale the smallest scent, because it was not disturbed. A woman, however, who perceived it at night, by the shining of its eyes, killed it, and at that moment its odour began to spread. The whole cellar was filled with it to such a degree, that the woman kept her bed for several days after; and all the bread, meat, and other provisions that were kept there, were so infected, that they were obliged to be thrown out of doors."

It is worthy of remark, however, that many of the planters, and the native Americans keep these animals tame about their houses; and are seldom annoyed by any disagreeable scents. They also eat the flesh, after depriving it of those glands which are so extremely offensive.

THE SKUNK.

THIS animal, which the natives of Brasil distinguish by the appellation of the *chinche*, resembles a polecat in the size and formation of its body; but particularly differs in the length of its hair and colour. The hair is above three inches long, and that at the end of the tail above four inches. The colour is partly black, and partly white, and disposed in stripes over the body. The nose is long and slender, and extends a considerable way beyond the lower jaw; the ears are large, short, and rounded; and the tail is remarkably thick and bushy.

The skunk, like the squash, emits an intolerable fetid scent, when attacked, pursued, or frightened. It inhabits Peru, Brasil, and other parts of South America; and is also found in North America, as far as Canada.

THE GENET.

AS the polecat, the squash, and the skunk, may be justly numbered among the most offensive animals in nature; the genet may be pronounced one of the most beautiful, and the perfume which it yields is perfectly grateful. The body of this animal is rather larger than that of the marten; its head is long and slender, tapering

toward the nose; and its ears are large and somewhat pointed. The hair is soft, smooth, and glossy; spotted with black, upon a ground mixed with red and grey: the spots on the sides are round and distinct; but towards the back they unite, and form black stripes, which run longitudinally from the neck backwards. Along the ridge of the back there is also a kind of mane of long black hair; and the tail is marked with rings, alternately black and white, its whole length. The perfume, which smells faintly of musk, issues from an orifice beneath the tail.

The genet nearly resembles the marten in its habits and disposition; but is said to be tamed with much greater facility. Belon informs us, that he has seen them, in the houses at Constantinople, as tame as domestic cats, and that they were permitted to run about, without any danger of their doing mischief. "For this reason," says Goldsmith, "they have been called the cats of Constantinople; although they have little else in common with that quadruped, except their skill in discovering and destroying vermin. From such, however, as have seen its uses at Constantinople, I learn that it is one of the most beautiful, cleanly, and industrious animals in the world; and that it keeps whatever house it is in perfectly free from rats and mice, which cannot endure its smell. Add to this, its nature is mild and gentle, its colour various and glossy, its fur valuable; and, upon the whole, it seems to be one of those

Predilection for moist grounds, &c.

animals that, with proper care, might be propagated among us, and might become one of the most serviceable of our domestics."

It is said that these animals inhabit only moist grounds, banks of rivers, &c. and that they are never found on mountains or dry tracts of land. Their species is not much diffused; few of them being found except in Turkey, Spain, Syria, and the southern provinces of France. Buffon remarks, that in the spring of 1775 the Abbé Roubard sent him a genet that was killed at Livray in Poitou, and M. Delpeche informed him, in a letter, that it was a constant practice with the peasants of the province of Rouergue to bring dead genets to the merchants in the winter season. It seems they are principally found near Villefranche, where they burrow in holes, like rabbits.

THE DORMOUSE.

OF the dormouse Buffon reckons only three species, viz. the greater dormouse, which he calls the *loir*, the middle, the *loiret*, and the less, the *muscardin*; modern naturalists, however, have enumerated no less than seven kinds, namely, the common dormouse, the striped dormouse, the fat dormouse, the garden dormouse, the Chilian dormouse, the earless dormouse, and the gilt-tailed dormouse.

This little animal is in many parts of England

called the sleeper. Its nest is commonly in the woods and hedges, at the roots of hollow trees, or at the bottom of bushes, and is formed of grass, moss, and fallen leaves.

Buffon seems to have fallen into an error, when he says the dormouse is not a native of Britain; since, though they are not so numerous as many other diminutive quadrupeds, they are well known to almost every villager in this country.

At the commencement of winter, they roll themselves up in balls, with the tail over the nose, in order to prevent the effects of the cold on their delicate frame and constitution: but the warmth of the sun, or any sudden transition, from cold to heat, thaws their almost stagnant fluids, and arouses them from this temporary lethargy.

Their magazines of provisions are always prepared against this season, and consist of acorns, beans, and nuts; in consequence of which, they are not under the necessity of going abroad, and exposing their lives in search of food, immediately on their re-animation.

They generally continue to sleep about five months of the year, during which time they are seldom found, unless by wood-cutters, or persons employed in procuring fuel, in the woods or coppices.

Their time of breeding is in the spring; and they are by no means so prolific as the common

mouse, seldom bringing forth more than four at a time during that season.

The common dormouse, according to the statement of Mr. Pennant, has two cutting teeth in each jaw, naked ears, four toes before, and five behind; the tail is somewhat more than two inches in length, and hairy towards the extremity. The body is about the size of that of the common, or domestic mouse, but rather more plump; the back and sides are of a tawny red, but the throat and belly perfectly white.

This animal is known in almost every part of Europe. It chiefly subsists on nuts and acorns, which it eats like the squirrel, sitting in an erect posture.

At the commencement of winter it rolls itself up in its nest, where it lies in a state of torpidity till revived by the genial warmth of spring; sometimes, when the winter is unusually mild, should the sun shine out, it frequently seems to revive; but when the motive ceases, it soon relapses into its former lethargic state.

The striped dormouse is found in the northern parts of Asia and America. It usually burrows like the rabbit in holes under ground, where it forms a habitation with two entrances, that it may be furnished with means of escape, should one of the passages be accidentally obstructed.

This retreat is very ingeniously contrived, resembling a long gallery, with diverticles on each side, each terminating in a kind of chamber,

Favourite food.

which serves as a *depôt* of provisions for the winter season; in one of these they deposit acorns, in another maize, in a third hickory nuts, and in a fourth chinquapin chesnuts, which last seem to be their favourite aliment.

During the winter they seldom, if ever, stir abroad; and their domestic affairs are so well managed, that their stock of provisions rarely fail. During the maize harvest they bite off the ears of corn, and cram their mouths so full, that their cheeks, which are peculiarly adapted for the purpose, are greatly distended, and appear ready to burst.

For some particular kinds of food they show a marked predilection, so that when they find it, they immediately relinquish that which is less agreeable, and fill their cheeks with the other; they like barley better than rye, and prefer wheat to either.

When pursued, and deprived of other means of escape, they will frequently ascend the highest trees, and secure themselves among the branches.

The loir, or fat dormouse, is of a soft ash-colour, with a whitish throat and belly. The body is thicker than that of the squirrel, and is about six inches in length from the snout to the insertion of the tail: the tail is commonly about four inches and a half, and the ears are remarkably thin and transparent.

This little quadruped is a native of the southern parts of Europe, and the south-west parts of

the Russian dominions. It generally resides in the trunks of hollow trees, subsisting mostly on fruits and acorns. Its flesh was formerly held in high esteem among the Romans, and is still considered as a delicacy in some parts of Italy.

The garden dormouse is to be found in most of the southern countries of Europe, and the most temperate parts of Russia; where it feeds upon roots and fruits of all descriptions. A broad black circle surrounds the eyes; it has also a black spot behind each ear, and a bush at the extremity of the tail: the head and body are of a tawny colour; and its smell is fœtid and disagreeable.

The Chilian dormouse, as its name implies, is a native of Chili, in South America. This animal is larger than the common rat, of a dull white colour, with a black stripe across the shoulders, and resides in deep burrows underground.

The carless dormouse derives its appellation from the smallness of its ears, which are scarcely perceptible, but on close inspection. It is about the size of a common squirrel, of a pale ferruginous colour, except a white line on each side, extending from the shoulder to the hind parts; it has also a white stripe or line over each eye. The feet and belly are of a dingy white; the back part of the hind-legs black and naked: it has a large protuberance on the fore-feet, and the toes are long and distinct, terminating with very long

claws; it is very mild in its disposition, and may be tamed with tolerable facility.

This animal is found in the interior parts of Africa, at a considerable distance from the Cape of Good Hope.

The gilt-tailed dormouse is a beautiful little animal, and a native of Surinam: it is of a purplish chesnut: a gold-coloured line runs down the face between the eyes; and nearly half the tail is also of a gold colour, from which distinction it seems to have received its name.

THE SYRIAN HYRAX.

THIS animal, according to the most accurate accounts, is found in Ethiopia, in the caverns of the rocks, or under the great stones, in the mountains of the sun, behind the palace at Koscam. It is also frequent in the deep caverns in the rocks, in many other parts of Abyssinia. It does not burrow, or make holes as the rat and rabbit; nature having interdicted this practice, by furnishing it with feet, the toes of which are perfectly round, and of a soft, tender substance; the fleshy part of the toes project beyond the nails, which are rather broad than sharp, much similar to a man's nails ill grown; and these appear rather given for the defence of the toes, than for any active use in digging, to which they are by no means adapted.

The hind-foot is long and narrow, divided with two deep wrinkles, or clefts, in the middle, drawn across the centre, on each side of which the flesh rises with considerable protuberancy, and it is terminated by three claws; the middle one being the longest. The fore-foot has four toes, three disposed in the same proportion as the hind-foot; the fourth is longer than the others, and is placed lower down on the side of the foot, so that the top of it reaches no farther than the bottom of the toe next to it. The sole of the foot is divided in the centre by deep clefts, like the other, and this cleft reaches down to the heel, which it nearly divides. The whole of the fore-foot is very thick, fleshy, and soft, and of a deep black colour, destitute of hair; though the back or upper part of it is thickly covered like the rest of the body, down to where the toes divide; there the hair ends, so that these long toes nearly resemble a man's fingers.

These quadrupeds seem to delight in airy places, in the mouths of caves, or clefts in the rock, or where one projecting, and being open before, affords a long retreat under it, without fear that this can ever be removed by the strength or operations of man. They are gregarious, and frequently several dozens of them sit upon the great stones at the mouth of the caves, and warm themselves in the sun, or even come out, and enjoy the freshness of the summer breeze,

Mr. Bruce's account of the Syrian hyrax.

They do not stand upright upon their feet, but seem to steal along, as in fear, their belly being nearly close to the ground, advancing a few steps at a time, and then pausing. Their deportment is very mild, feeble, and timid; and they may be easily tamed, though, when roughly handled at the first, they bite very severely.

"This animal," says Mr. Bruce, "is found plentifully on Mount Libanus. I have seen him also among the rocks at the Pharan Promontorium, or Cape Mahomet; which divides the Elanitic from the Gulf of Suez. In all places they seem to be the same; if there be any difference, it is in favour of the size and fatness, which those in the Mountain of the Sun seem to enjoy above the others. What his food is I cannot determine with any degree of certainty. When in my possession, he ate bread and meat, and seemed to be rather a moderate than voracious feeder. I suppose he subsists on grain, fruit, and roots. He seemed to be timid, and backward, in his own nature, to feed upon living food, or to catch it by hunting.

"The total length of this animal as he sits, from the point of his nose to the extremity of his body, is seventeen inches and a quarter. The length of his snout from the extremity of the nose to the occiput, is three inches and three eighths. His upper jaw is longer than his under; his nose stretches half an inch beyond his chin.

Mr. Bruce's description, &c.

The aperture of the mouth, when he keeps it close, in profile, is little more than an inch. The circumference of the snout around both his jaws; is three inches and three eighths; the upper part of the head eight inches and five eighths; the circumference of his neck is eight inches and a half, and its length one inch and a half. He seems more willing to turn his body altogether than his neck alone. The circumference of his body, measured behind his fore-legs, is nine inches and three quarters, and that of his body, where greatest, eleven inches and three eighths. The length of his fore-leg and toe is three inches and a half. The length of his hind-thigh three inches and one eighth, and the length of his hind-leg to the toe, taken together, is two feet two inches; the length of the fore-foot is one inch and three eighths; the length of the middle toe six lines, and its breadth the same. The distance between the point of the nose, and the first corner of the eye, is one inch and five eighths; and the length of his eye from one angle to the other four lines. The difference from the fore angle of his eye to the root of his ear, is one inch and three lines, and the opening of his eye two lines and a half. His upper lip is covered with a pencil of strong hair for mustachoes, the length of which are three inches and five eighths, and those of his eyebrows two inches and two eighths. His colour is of a grey mixed with a reddish

Harmless disposition.

brown, perfectly like the wild or warren rabbit and he has no tail. His belly is white from the point of the lower jaw, to where his tail would begin, if he had one. All over his body he has scattered hairs, strong and polished like his mustachoes; these are for the most part two inches and a quarter in length. His ears are round, not pointed. He makes no noise that ever I heard, but certainly chews the cud. To discover this was the principal reason of my keeping him alive. Those with whom he is acquainted he follows with great assiduity. The arrival of any living creature, even of a bird, makes him seek for a hiding-place; and I shut him up in a cage, with a small chicken, after omitting to feed him a whole day: the next morning the chicken was unhurt, though he came to me, with great signs of having suffered with hunger. I likewise made a second experiment, by enclosing two smaller birds with him for the space of several weeks; neither were these hurt, though both of them fed, without impediment, upon the meat that was thrown into his cage, and the smallest of these, a titmouse, seemed to be advancing in a sort of familiarity with him, though I never saw it venture to perch upon him, yet it would eat frequently, and at the same time, of the food upon which he was feeding; and in this consisted chiefly the familiarity I speak of, for he never showed any alteration of behaviour upon the pre-

Different names given to the hyrax.

sence of the bird, but treated it with a kind of absolute indifference. The cage, indeed, was large, and the birds, having a perch to sit upon in the upper part of it, did not annoy one another."

"In Amhara," continues our author, "this animal is called *ashoko*, which I apprehend, is derived from the singularity of those long hairs, which, like small thorns, grow about his back, and which, in Amhara are called *ashok*. In Arabia and Syria he is called Israel's sheep, or Gannim Israel; for what reason I know not unless it be from his frequenting the rocks of Horeb and Sinai, where the children of Israel made their forty years peregrination; perhaps this name obtains only among the Arabians. I apprehend he is known by that of *saphan* in the Hebrew, and is the animal erroneously called by our translators the *cuniculus*, or *rabbit*."

THE CAPE HYRAX.

THIS animal is commonly known in its native regions by the name of the rock-badger, though its feet are not formed for digging or burrowing. It resides in the hollows of the rocks and cliffs, and leaps with considerable agility. It is about the size of a common rabbit, and not much unlike it in colour. The body and limbs

are short and thick; the head is small, the eyes large and black, the ears short, and the nose divided by a furrow; the fore-feet have four toes, of a soft pulpy nature, and furnished with flat, rounded nails; the hind-feet are of a similar structure, but have only three divisions, the interior of which is armed with a sharp crooked claw, and the exterior ones have nails like those on the fore-feet.

Dr. Pallas published the first figure of this species; but more correct representations have since been given.

In its wild state, it lives mostly on vegetables, reposing all day on a bed of dried leaves and grass, and at night retiring into the cavities of the rocks. Its voice is a kind of a shrill squeak, which it sometimes repeats several times in the course of a few minutes.

This animal is said to be easily tamed, and shows considerable attachment to its keeper: it is remarkably cleanly in its habits, and active and lively in its disposition, leaping about with the greatest agility. Its favourite food seems to be fruits and vegetables, though it will not reject bread. With respect to its fecundity or manner of educating its young very little seems to be known.

The variety called the Hudson's Bay Hyrax, from the name of its native country, is of a cinereous brown colour, with the points of the hairs

white; and is about the size of a marmot. It seems to have been first described by Mr. Pennant, from a specimen deposited in the Leverian Museum.

THE SHREW-MOUSE.

THE shrew-mouse seems to form a shade in the order of diminutive animals, and to fill up the interval between the mole and the rat; which though they resemble each other in size, differ materially in form, and are a totally distinct species.

This animal is smaller than the common mouse, and in its snout, which is much longer than the jaw-bone, it resembles the mole: its eyes are black and larger than those of the latter animal, but they are in like manner concealed, and much smaller than those of the mouse. It has a short bare tail, small rounded ears, two upper fore-teeth of a singular construction, having a small barb on each side, almost imperceptible, and five claws on each foot.

The colour of the shrew-mouse, is in general, a reddish brown, but some are of an ash colour; and all of them are white under the belly.

The shrew-mouse does not seem to exist in America, but is a native of most parts of Europe. In Great Britain it generally resides in barns,

Habits—Offensive odour.

stables, hay-lofts, and on dung-hills; sometimes it is found in the woods, and fields, beneath the roots of trees, or under heaps of faggots, or leaves, where it frequently forms a little burrow. The female produces as many young at a time as the common mouse, but not so frequently.

This little animal does not ramble far from home, its sight being very imperfect, and its pace slow; so that it may be caught with very little difficulty. It feeds on insects, grain, and roots, and, when it can be found, on putrescent flesh.

When chased, or ensnared, it utters a cry more sharp and piercing than that of the mouse. It has also a strong and offensive smell, owing to which most cats reject the flesh, or if they eat any part of it, are subject to sickness afterwards. They will, however, pursue and kill it whenever they have an opportunity.

From this noisome odour a notion has been imbibed by ignorant people, that it is possessed of a considerable degree of venom; to which they attribute some diseases of horses and other cattle; but a common observer, when he considers the formation of its mouth, which could not possibly open sufficiently wide to seize the double thickness of another animal's skin, must readily acquit it of the charge; and naturally conclude, that those casual swellings in animals rather proceed from internal causes,

Annual mortality.

It is a remarkable, but well authenticated circumstance, that there is an annual mortality among these little animals, about the month of August, during which, they are found dead in great numbers in the roads, woods, and fields, without any appearance of violence on their bodies.



Description.

CHAP. X.

“Conceal'd amidst the darksome tangled wood,
By hunger stung, and all athirst for blood,
The savage jaguar lurks, till man or beast
Afford another sanguinary feast.”

THOMAS.

THE JAGUAR.

THIS fierce and destructive animal is of the feline kind, and is frequently called the American tiger, as it nearly resembles that quadruped in its habits and manners.

In size it is somewhat larger than the wolf, and, when stung by hunger, is exceedingly formidable; it is then cruel and restless, lying in ambush in the woods and thickets, waiting for its prey, and sparing neither man nor beast. Its manner of feeding is cruel and savage: it rends its victims both with its teeth and talons, and seems to enjoy the luxury of blood.

The ground colour of the jaguar is a pale yellow, on the upper parts of the body variegated

Description—Depredations.

with streaks, and oblong spots of black; the ridge of the back is marked with long interrupted black stripes, and the sides with rows of regular open marks. The thighs and legs are likewise marked with black spots, but without central spaces. The throat, breast, and belly, incline to white, and the tail, the upper part of which is marked with broad black spots, is not so long as the body.

They sometimes descend from their lurking places into the sheep-folds, and commit dreadful havock among the flock, always destroying more than they devour, and sometimes carrying off whole sheep.

It is a fortunate circumstance that when the appetite of this animal is satisfied it seems to lose its courage and ferocity, and will fly before a common dog: fire, or any other kind of light, is sufficient to intimidate it. It is neither active nor nimble, except when pressed by hunger.

Almost all the authors who have written on the New World, make mention of this animal, some under the name of the tiger or leopard; others under its Brazilian appellation of janouara, and some have called it the jaguara.

The jaguar is found in Paraguay, Guiana, Brasil, Mexico, Amazonia, and all South America. Brasil, however, seems to have been its native climate, though it is now become more rare here than formerly, a price having been set upon its head; in consequence of which great

A variety, called the jaguarette.

numbers have been destroyed, and the rest having retired from the coast, in dread of man, to seek refuge in the more desert, and interior parts of the country.

The method of taking these creatures among the negroes is, generally, in a pitfall, covered with hurdles, and baited with some living animal.

Unlike the Asiatic tiger, the jaguar is capable of being tamed, and is gratified by attention and caresses; it has, however, been found unsafe to trust it beyond a certain degree.

The jaguarette is an animal inhabiting the same regions, and possessing the identical qualities and dispositions of the jaguar, so that naturalists have been at a loss to determine whether they were two distinct species of the same genus, or only varieties of the same species; both Piso and Marcgrave, the only writers who seemed to have an opportunity of giving original descriptions of this animal, say, that its hair is shorter, more glossy, and variegated with spots of a deeper black, than those of the jaguar; but, in every other respect, they bear the most perfect resemblance: we may, therefore, with great propriety, fix this animal merely as a variety of one and the same species.

It might be here worthy of remark, that the most observable distinction in the tiger, and in which it differs from all others of the mottled kind, is, in the shape of its colours, which run in the same direction as the ribs, in bands, or stripes,

Description.

from the ridge of the back downwards. Animals of the leopard or panther kind have this difference, that those stripes are broken into spots, all over the body, whereas in the tiger they are stretched unbroken, and there is scarcely one round spot on any part of the skin.

The jaguarette is more rarely to be found near the haunts of men than the jaguar. It is a still more shy and cautious animal, preferring those solitudes where it is less liable to the destructive arts of mankind.

The jaguar, as we have before observed, nearly resembles the panther and leopard, except in the disposition of its spots, and that its neck and head are rather streaked than spotted; it is also said to be somewhat lower on its legs than the leopard of Senegal. The principal distinction used by Buffon is taken from the size of these three quadrupeds; the first, he says, is usually six feet, the second four, and the last about three in length; however, it appears, from the particular subjects of his description, that the panther in his possession was not above three feet seven inches long; that the leopard's skin, which he describes, was about four; and that the jaguar, at two years, was between two and three feet long, which, when come to its full growth, would, no doubt, be four feet in length, as well as the two former.

"From hence, therefore," says Goldsmith, "we may conclude, that the size in these animals

Observations.

is not sufficient to make a distinction among them; and that those who called them all three by the indiscriminate names of the leopard and panther, if not right, were at least excusable."

The spots, with which the skins of the above animals are diversified, are so various, and their size so equivocal, that it is a difficult matter to distinguish the species; particularly as we have little else but the spots and the size to guide us, in making the distinction. If we regard the figure and diversity of the spots, we shall find many varieties, not taken notice of by any naturalist: if we were led by the size, we should find an imperceptible gradation from the cat to the tiger. It would be vain, therefore, to make as many varieties in these animals as we see differences in spots or stature; it will be sufficient to notice the most general distinctions, and leave the rest to such as are fond of more minute disquisitions.

M. le Brun had a female jaguar sent him in the year 1775. It appeared very young, measuring only twenty-three inches in length. The ground colour of the body was a dirty grey, mingled with red; the spots were yellow, edged with black, and the ears were black, with a white spot on the external part.

M. Sonini de Manoncom informs us, that he had the skin of one of these animals, which measured nearly five feet from the nose to the insertion of the tail. He describes them as frequently

M. Sonini's account of the jaguar.

attacking dogs, committing great devastations among the flocks, and rendering themselves formidable to travellers, particularly in the deserts. "In a journey," says he, "which I made through the African forests, we were tormented with one for three successive nights, and yet he avoided all our attempts to destroy him; but finding we kept up large fires, he at last left us with a dismal howling."

"At Cayenne," continues our author, "the natives have an idea that the jaguar would rather destroy them than Europeans. It is not so, however, with the savages; for I have travelled with them through the deserts, and never found them to have any particular terror: they slept as we did with their hammocks suspended, making a little fire under them, which often went out before the morning; and, in short, took no particular precautions, where they knew themselves to be surrounded by these animals."

THE SERVAL.

THIS ferocious quadruped is a native of India and Tibet; in the Linnæan system it is denominated *felis serval*; Buffon calls it the serval, or mountain cat, but Pennant, who in his quadrupeds, likewise, calls it the serval, makes a distinction between this and the former animal.

The natives of Malabar call it the marapute, or maraputa.

In a work on natural history, published by the French academicians, the serval seems first to have been noticed by the name of the *chat pard*; and was therein described as measuring two feet and a half, from the nose to the insertion of the tail; its shape and make was very thick and strong; its upper parts were of a fox-coloured red, with the throat, breast, belly, and inside of the legs, of a dun white; the body was spotted with black, the spots on the sides, belly, and legs, being rounder and more numerous than those on other parts.

Buffon gives us the following description of this animal, from a passage in an Italian work, translated and sent to him by the Marquis de Montmirail.

"The marapute," which the Portuguese in India, call serval, "is a ferocious animal, larger than a wild cat, and somewhat less than the civet, from which he differs, by having a larger and rounder head, and a kind of depression on the middle of the front.

"He resembles the panther in the colour of his hair, which is yellow on the head, back, and flanks, and white on the breast and belly, and likewise in the spots, which are distinct, equally distributed, and somewhat smaller than those of the panther. His eyes are extremely brilliant,

his whiskers long and stiff, and his tail rather short: his toes are armed with long and hooked claws.

“He is found on the Indian mountains, where he is very seldom seen on the ground, but remains always on the trees, lurking among the branches; where he forms a nest, in which he lies in wait for birds, and other small animals, which constitute his chief nourishment. He leaps from tree to tree, as nimbly as the squirrel or the monkey, and with such address and agility, that he runs through a considerable space in an instant, appearing and disappearing alternately.

“In this state he is extremely fierce, and yet he flies from man, unless he be provoked, or his dwelling-place be injured or incommoded: he then becomes exceedingly furious, darting on the offender, like the panther, seizing him by the neck or throat, and lacerating him both with his teeth and talons, in a terrible manner.

“Neither captivity, nor good nor bad treatment,” continues the above author, “can soften the natural ferocity of this animal.”

The American serval, which the same writer, in his supplement, denominates the *chat sauvage de la Caroline*, is a native of North America; and Pennant observes, that it has upright pointed ears, marked with two brown transverse bars. “The upper part of the body,” says he, “is of a reddish ground, and it is marked on the back

with long narrow stripes; the chin is of a pure white, and the tail is annulated with black. It is about two feet and a half in length, mild and gentle in its manner, and is frequently observed to grow very fat.

The French naturalist likewise gives us the figure of another animal of this tribe, under the appellation of *chat sauvage de la nouvelle Espagne*, whose body is nearly four feet in length, when full grown: its general colour is of a blueish grey, speckled with dark brown; it has small and clear eyes, coarse and stiff hair, the tail of one colour, and rather longer than that of the former.

The Comte de Buffon is of opinion that this animal is only a variety in the tribe, but Pennant considers it as a distinct species.

These quadrupeds, like all of the feline race, inhabit the most inaccessible mountains, and vast forests, where they seek safety by flight, or by climbing trees, for which nature seems to have peculiarly adapted them, by the lightness of their bodies, and the formation of their claws; and as they have the advantage of eluding the pursuit of man, so they are noxious in proportion to their power of doing mischief.

THE CARACAL.

THE caracal, or syagush, in its general appearance nearly resembles the lynx, and may

justly be ranked among the most formidable enemies of man.

Like the lynx, it has the singular characteristic of a stripe of black hair, terminating in a tuft, or pencil, at the extremity of the ear; but from their disagreement in other respects, naturalists have considered them as animals of a different species.

The body of the caracal is not spotted like that of the lynx; the hair is likewise rougher, shorter, and of a pale reddish brown; the tail is larger and longer, and of an uniform colour; the face is also more lengthened, and the aspect more ferocious.

This animal seems to be peculiar to the warm climates of the East, and is chiefly found in those countries infested by the lion, the panther, the tiger, and the ounce.

Syagush is the name given by the Persians; but the Turks call him karrahkulah, both which names imply the black-eared cat.

Of this animal there are some varieties.

The Lybian caracal has white ears, pointed with a thin pencil of a jetty black. The tail is likewise white, beautifully annulated with black: it has four black spots on each leg, and frequently does not exceed the common cat in size.

The Nubian caracal has a shorter snout, and broader face, marked with bright yellow spots on the breast, belly, and inside of the thighs: it has the mule-cross on the withers, like those of

Varieties—Caracals used in hunting.

Barbary; and the ears are black, interspersed with a few hairs of a shining whiteness.

The common caracal is about the size of a fox, or somewhat taller, but exceedingly fierce and strong. It has been known to attack the largest dog, which it has defeated in a few minutes, and literally torn in pieces.

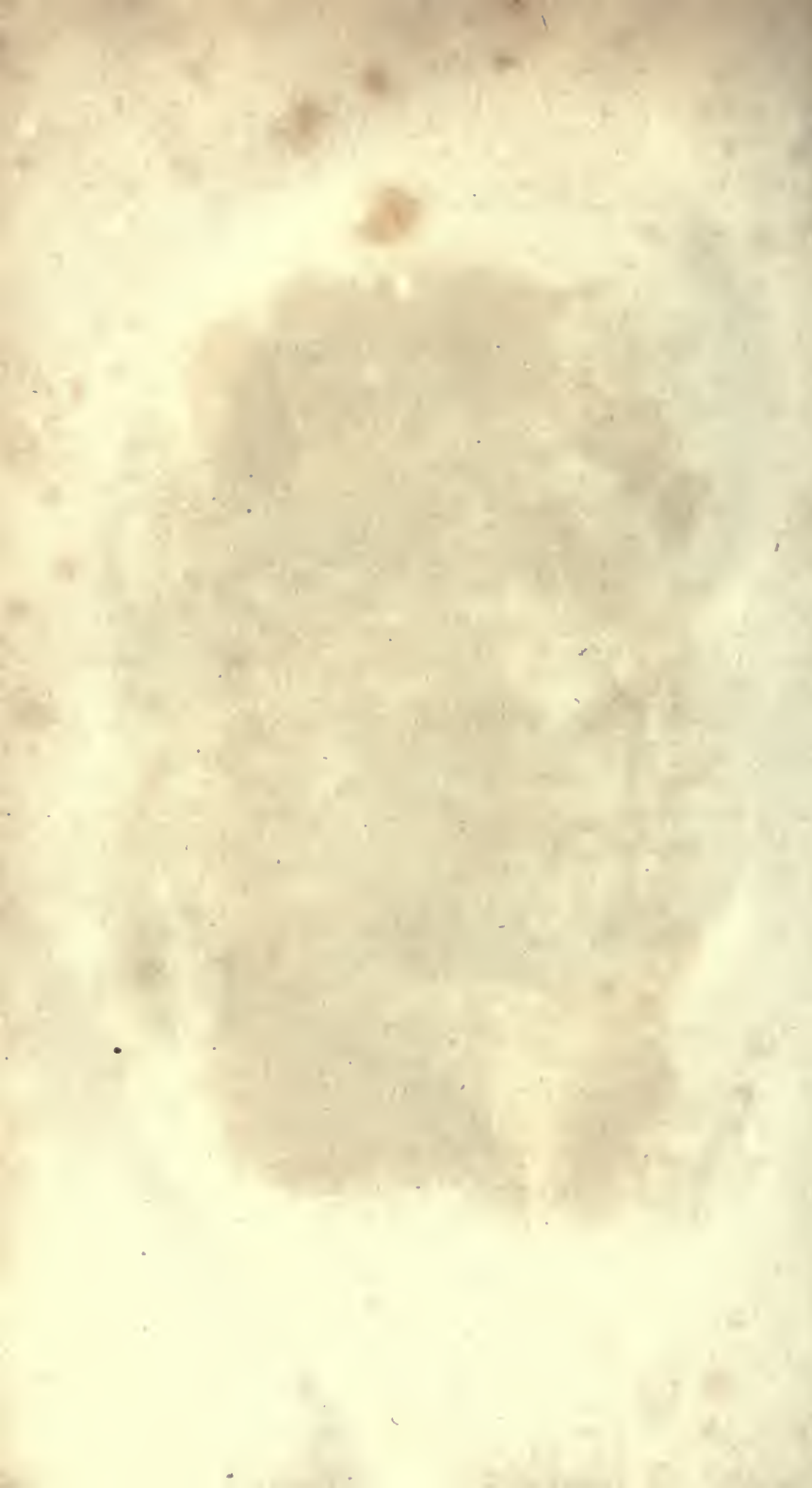
Being much inferior in size and strength to many other carnivorous animals, it cannot so easily procure living prey; but, in order to obviate this difficulty, nature seems to have taught it to follow at a distance the lion, and other powerful creatures; to satisfy itself with the fragments of their banquets.

It is curious to remark, that the caracal always keeps at a distance from the panther, because that savage animal does not relax in cruelty of disposition; even after it is satisfied with food, but rushes on every living creature which makes its appearance.

The caracal is sometimes used in the same manner as the ounce for hunting; and it seems to have a property which the other has not, viz. that of being able to overtake its prey by pursuing it. Whether this be the result of a finer scent, or greater swiftness than is possessed by the ounce, does not seem to have been fully ascertained; naturalists having merely told us, that when the animal overtakes the gazelle or antelope, it leaps upon their back, and, getting forward to their shoulders, scratches out



THE SOW.



Description.

their eyes, by which means they become an easy prey to the hunters.

“ We had one of these animals,” says Goldsmith, “ some years ago, sent over from the East Indies; but it was not able to endure the change of climate, and it died in a very short time after it was brought to the town.”

THE COUGAR.

THE cougar, which may be justly pronounced the most formidable and mischievous of all the American animals, is longer, but more slender than the jaguar: he has a small head, long tail, and short hair, which is of a lively red colour, intermixed with a few blackish tints, particularly on the back. He is neither marked with stripes like the tiger, nor with spots like the panther, ounce, or leopard. His chin, neck, and all the lower parts of the body are of a dull white.

Though not so strong as the jaguar, this animal is equally ferocious, and perhaps more cruel: for having seized his prey, he kills it, and without waiting to tear it in pieces, he continues to eat and suck alternately until he has gorged his appetite and glutted his sanguinary fury.

By the lightness of his body and the length of his legs, the cougar seems better calculated for speed and climbing of trees than the jaguar. When glutted with food he is indolent and cow-

Methods of taking the prey.

ardly, and is seldom known to attack men, except he happen to find them asleep. Though these animals live entirely upon prey, and drink blood more frequently than water, Piso asserts that their flesh is as good as veal; and Charlevoix and others have compared it to mutton: Desmarchais, however, remarks, that it is generally lean, and of a disagreeable flavor.

The cougar of Cayenne is thus described by M. de la Borde: "Its head is somewhat like that of a common cougar: it has long black hair, a long tail, and large whiskers, but is much smaller than the other."

When pressed for food, these animals will attack cows and oxen: in this case they spring upon their backs, and, having brought them to the ground, tear them to pieces, first opening their breasts and bellies, to glut themselves with the blood; they then drag pieces of the flesh into the wood, covering the remainder with branches of trees, and keeping near to feed upon it, until it begins to putrify, when they touch it no more. They will keep near a herd of wild hogs, for the purpose of seizing the stragglers, but cautiously avoid being surrounded by them. They often seek for prey on the sea-shore, and devour the eggs left there by the turtles: they also prey on the alligators, lizards, and fishes: to take the alligator they lie down by the edge of the water, which they strike so as to make sufficient noise to attract his attention; and he no sooner comes

to the place, and puts his head above water, then the seducer makes an unerring spring at him, and kills and drags him to some convenient place, where he may devour him at leisure.

These quadrupeds are excellent swimmers, and cross the largest rivers with perfect facility. The female produces only one young at a time, which she generally hides in the trunk of some hollow tree.

Cougars are very numerous in Brasil, Paraguay, and the country of the Amazons; and there is reason to believe that the animal described by some travellers under the name of the ocorome, in Peru, and in the country of the Iroquois, is a variety of this species. Buffon observes, that it may be easily tamed, and rendered nearly as familiar as domestic animals.

THE URSON.

PLACED by nature in the desert part of North America, this animal exists in a state of independence, far from man; and never received a distinct name, till the Comte de Buffon gave him one, indicative of his sharp bristly nature. He seems to resemble the coendou, or porcupine in some few characters; but differs from them materially in other respects, and is also found exclusively in the northern climates, while the others are inhabitants of the south.

Resemblance to the beaver.

Catesby, Edwards, and Ellis have all spoken of this quadruped; and it is highly probable that the figure and description which Seba has given, under the name of the remarkable porcupine of the East Indies, might be the urson; that author having repeatedly spoken of American animals as belonging to India.

"The urson," says Buffon, might be called the bristly beaver; he being of the same country, the same size, and the same form of body. Besides his prickles, which are short, and almost covered with hair, like the beaver, he has a double coat, the first consisting of long and soft hairs, and the second of a down, which is still more soft and smooth. In the young animals the prickles are proportionably larger, and the hair shorter than in adults."

Ursons are very cleanly animals, and seem to avoid moist places, under the apprehension of wetting themselves. They form their habitations under the roots of large hollow trees, and subsist principally upon the bark of juniper bushes. In winter the snow serves them for drink; but in summer, they lap water, like a dog. The American Indians regale upon their flesh, clothe themselves with the fur, and use the bristles instead of pins and needles.

THE TANREC.

THIS little animal is a native of the East Indies, and bears some resemblance to the common hedgehog; but differs from it sufficiently to constitute a distinct species.

There appear to be two varieties of these quadrupeds; the first is nearly as large as our hedgehog, has a long muzzle, and is thickly covered with bristles: the second (which some writers have called the tendrac,) is not bigger than a large rat; its ears and muzzle are shorter than those of the former, and its prickles are only found on the head, neck, and shoulders; the other parts of the body being covered with a coarse hair, somewhat resembling the bristles of a hog.

These animals have very short legs, and move slowly: they are chiefly found near creeks and harbours of salt water, and may be frequently seen wallowing in the mire like hogs. At the approach of winter they retire to their subterraneous habitations, shed their hair, and remain in a state of torpidity for several months. But upon their revival nature provides them with a new dress, and they soon become extremely fat. Their flesh is said to be insipid, soft, and spungy; yet the Indians consider it as a peculiar delicacy.

THE SURICATE.

THIS animal is somewhat less than the rabbit, and nearly resembles the ichneumon in colour; but its hair is rougher, and its tail not quite so long. The snout is raised and prominent; the upper jaw is pliant and moveable, and like the hyæna, the animal has only four toes on each foot.

A female suricate in the possession of M. de Seve was very handsome, lively, and subtle; she sometimes was observed to walk on her hind legs, and frequently to sit upright, with her forepaws hanging down on her breast, her head at the same time, being erect, and moving on her neck as on a pivot.

This animal was at first fed with milk, being very young; but she soon evinced an inclination for raw meat, and was particularly fond of poultry, fish, and eggs: she would even take out eggs that were put in water to be boiled, and carry them off in her paws. Like the squirrel, she used her fore feet to carry food to her mouth, and lapped her drink like a dog; but would not touch water unless it were lukewarm.

She played with cats with the greatest familiarity, and was so well tamed that she went loose about the house, and invariably answered to her name when called. She had two kinds of voices, one like the barking of a puppy, when she was

Singular antipathies.

left long alone, or heard an unusual noise; and when caressed, or desirous of expressing pleasure, she made a noise as strong as that of a rattle briskly turned.

It is a singular fact, that this animal seemed to have an aversion to particular persons: when taken up, it always smelt at the hand which held it, and never failed to bite those whom it had bitten before, however frequently they approached it. Some people, indeed, were so very disagreeable to it, that, even when restrained, it would make use of various stratagems to come at them, and if it could not succeed in seizing their legs, it would lay hold of their shoes or petticoats.

These quadrupeds are principally found among the mountains of Africa above the Cape of Good Hope. They appear to be of a delicate habit, and to require a warm climate; for that in the possession of M. de Seve only lived one winter; notwithstanding the utmost attention was paid to her food and warmth.

THE CRAB-EATER.

THIS animal, which has derived its appellation from its principally subsisting upon crabs has been compared, by some travellers, to the dog and fox, and others have deemed it more analogous to the opossum tribe; but according

Description.

to the best and most accurate accounts it may be considered as a distinct and separate species.

The Comte de Buffon describes one of these quadrupeds as measuring seventeen inches, exclusive of the tail, which was about fifteen inches and a half long, of a greyish colour, scaly, and tapering gradually towards the point. He was only about six inches and a half high, and at a distance resembled a terrier, his head being much like that of a dog. His eyes were small, the edges of the eyebrows black, and above the eye were several hairs more than an inch long: he had also similar hairs near his ears, and his whiskers were black, and about an inch and a half long.

The hair on the body is woolly, of a dirty white at the bottom, and dark brown mingled with black at the ends. From the middle of the back to the tail is a kind of mane of coarse black hairs, which are also sprinkled over the thighs. The sides and belly are of a yellowish white, inclining to yellow on the shoulders, neck, breast, and head, and the legs and feet are of a blackish brown. Each foot is furnished with five toes, a little bent, like those of a rat; the thumb (as it is called) on the hind-feet is broad, thick, and placed at a distance from the toes, as in apes; but on the fore-feet it is not separate from them: the thumb nails are flat, while those on the other toes are crooked, and extend beyond the points.

M. de la Borde observes, that these animals

are very common in the marshy places at Cayenne. "They are very dexterous," says he, "in climbing trees, upon which they remain much longer than upon the ground, especially in the day time. They have very fine teeth and defend themselves from the dogs. Their principal food consists of crabs, and yet they are always fat. If they cannot get the crabs out of the holes with their feet, they then make use of their tail, as a kind of hook; but the crabs sometimes lay hold of it, and make the animals utter a cry, which resembles that of a man, and may be heard at a great distance; though its common voice is like the grunting of a pig." The females make their nests in the hollows of old trees, and generally produce four or five young at a time. They are easily domesticated, and are fed, like dogs or cats, with any kind of victuals; whence it is evident that their taste for crabs is not exclusive.

In Cayenne there is a species of crab-eater which differs from that already described in the shape and proportions of the body; in the structure of the feet and claws; and in the tail being entirely covered with hair; as also in the animal's seizing its prey with its paws only.

The natives of the country eat the flesh of these quadrupeds, which is said to bear a near resemblance to that of the hare.

THE COATI-MONDI.

THIS quadruped has some resemblance to the bear, in the length of its hind-legs, the structure of its paws, the form of its feet, and the bushiness of its hair. The tail is long, and, in general, annulated, like that of the racoon; the upper jaw is much larger than the lower, and very pliable; the eyes are small, and the ears short and rounded. The hair is smooth, glossy, and of a bright bay colour, except on the breast, where it inclines to white.

Linnæus describes one of these animals, which he kept a considerable time, in the hope of being able to bring it to subjection; but this was found impracticable. It was extremely obstinate and capricious; and frequently committed serious depredations among the poultry, tearing off their heads, and sucking their blood. When any person attempted to lay hold of it contrary to its inclination, it defended itself with astonishing force, and adhered closely to the legs of those with whom it was familiar, when inclined to ransack their pockets, or to steal any thing from them: but, as it had an insurmountable aversion to hogs' bristles, a touch with the smallest brush made it desist.

Its mode of living was very singular: it slept regularly from midnight till noon; kept awake the rest of the day, and uniformly walked about

Curious practice of gnawing the tail.

from six in the evening till midnight, without the least regard to the weather.

The coati-mondi stands with ease on its hind-feet; and has a curious practice of gnawing its own tail, which it generally carries erect and moves with perfect facility in every direction. "This seeming unnatural habit," says the Comte de Buffon, "is not peculiar to the coati; for some monkeys, and other animals with long tails, frequently shorten them a fourth, or even one third, in this manner. From this circumstance the inference has been drawn, that in very long members the extremities of which must consequently be very remote from the centre of sensation, the feeling must be weak; and the more so the greater the distance and the smaller the part; for if the extremities of the tails of these animals were very sensible, the pain excited would prevail over their inclination to mutilate, and they would preserve their tails with as much care as any other part of the body."

The coati-mondi is carnivorous, and, like the fox or martin, destroys small animals and poultry, hunts for the nests of birds, and devours their eggs; and it is probably from this conformity of disposition rather than from any external resemblance, that some writers have considered it as a small species of the fox.—It is principally found in Brasil and Guiana.

CHAP. XI.

"Where craggy rocks in rude disorder frown,
And oft the loosen'd mass comes thund'ring down;
The patient *lama* bears his heavy load,
Nor dreads the dangers of the horrid road."

THOMAS.

THE LAMA.

IT is a singular fact that although the animals of this species are domestic in Peru, Chili, and Mexico, as horses are in Europe, or camels in Arabia; we know but little respecting them. It is, indeed, pretended that they cannot be transported into Europe, nor even be removed from their native mountains, without risking their lives in a short time. But as the Spaniards have so long had possession of the country, and as many literary characters have long resided at Lima, Quito, and several other towns, they might, without any inconvenience, have designed, described, and dissected these animals. Acosta, and Gregoire de Bolivar have taken the trouble to collect

Description.

some facts relative to the disposition of the lamas, and the advantages to be derived from them; but they are silent with respect to their internal conformation, the length of time the female goes with young, and many other interesting particulars.

The lama, according to the most accurate accounts, is about four feet high; and has a great resemblance to the camel, excepting the hump on the back. The head is small and well proportioned, the eyes large, the nose rather long; and the lips thick; the upper one being divided, and the under a little pendulous. The ears are about four inches long; and the tail, which seldom exceeds eight inches, is small, and straight. The back, rump, and tail, are clothed with short hair, which becomes longer on the sides and belly. The colour, in general, is a sort of mixed brown, though some varieties are white, and others perfectly black. The hoofs are cloven, like those of the ox; but they have a sort of spur behind, which enables the animal to support himself over precipices and rugged ways.

The female seldom produces more than one young at a time, and this follows her as soon as it is brought forth. The flesh of the young lamas is accounted delicious, but that of the old ones is tough and unsavoury; their skins are converted into harness by the Spaniards, and the Indians make their shoes of them.

“These useful animals,” says the Comte de Buffon, “are attended with no expence to their masters: as they are cloven footed, they do not require to be shod, and their wool renders saddles unnecessary. Satisfied with a small portion of grass and vegetables, they want neither corn nor hay; and they are still more moderate in what they drink, as their mouths are continually moistened with saliva, which they have in a greater quantity than any other animal.

Peru appears to be the native country of these quadrupeds, and there they are found in prodigious numbers from Potosi to Caracas. They constitute the chief riches of the Indians, and add not a little to the opulence of the Spaniards who rear them. Their wool may be spun into beautiful clothing, and they are capable of carrying heavy burthens in the most rugged and dangerous roads. Some of them have been known to travel with from one hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty pounds weight on their backs; and they are so sure footed, that they travel safely among the most craggy rocks, where even men can scarcely accompany them. Their pace is short, and they seldom perform a journey of more than fifteen miles in a day. They commonly travel five days together, and then they rest of their own accord, for two or three days; in order to recruit their exhausted strength. They are much employed in carrying the riches

dug out of the mines of Potosi; and Bolivar informs us, that, in his time, above three hundred thousand were thus kept at work continually.

The growth of these animals is rapid, and their lives but of short duration. Like the American Indians, they are gentle and phlegmatic, and do every thing with the utmost leisure and caution. When they stop on their journies to rest, they bend their knees very carefully, in order to lower their bodies without disordering their load; and at the accustomed signal of their driver, they rise up again with the same precaution, and resume their journey. They feed as they go along, on the grass they meet with in their way, but never eat in the night; making use of that time to ruminate.

When overloaded or completely fatigued, they sink to the ground, and neither the threats nor chastisement of their driver can induce them to rise again; but if he persist in beating them, the animals become desperate, and are sometimes known to kill themselves, by beating their heads against the earth. They do not make any defence, either with their feet or teeth, and they have, in fact, no other arms than those of indignation. When persecuted, however, they eject a saliva against their tormentors: and the Indians assert, that this is of so acrimonious a nature as to cause very unpleasant, and even dangerous eruptions on the skin.

The wild lamas, which are called huanacus by

the natives, are stronger and more fleet than the domestic ones. Their wool is short and their colour tawny, and they climb over the most craggy precipices like the ibex or chamois. They feed in herds, sometimes consisting of two or three hundred; and often remain for a considerable time above the snowy tracts of the mountains. They are indeed much fonder of the north than the south side of the hills, and appear vigorous in proportion to the coldness of their situation.

When these quadrupeds discover any of the human species, they regard him at first with a sort of vacant gaze, without exhibiting any symptom of fear or surprise; but in a few seconds, they blow through their nostrils somewhat like the neighing of horses; and, as if by mutual consent, fly off to the highest summits of the mountains.

The natives hunt these animals principally for their fleeces. Such is their fleetness, however, that it is extremely difficult to follow them; and if they can once gain the rocks, both dogs and hunters are obliged to abandon the pursuit. They are very numerous all along the chain of the Cordeliers, which are full three thousand fathoms above the level of the sea at Peru, and preserve that elevation from Chili to the Straits of Magellan; but on the coast of New Spain, where the altitude of the mountains is less considerable, none of these quadrupeds are to be found.

Although it is pretended that these animals cannot live if removed from their native country, it is certain that after the conquest of Peru, some of them were transported into Europe. The animal spoken of by Gessner, under the name of *allo camelus*, and of which he has given a delineation, is evidently a lama; which was brought alive to Holland, in the year 1558; and is the same with that Matthiolus calls an *elapho-camelus*, which he has described with the utmost care and accuracy. "We ought therefore," says M. de Buffon, "to be better informed of the nature of these animals, which might prove very useful to us; for they would probably thrive as well upon the Alpine and Pyrenean mountains, as on the Cordeliers.

THE MANATI.

"THIS animal," says the Comte de Buffon, may be indiscriminately called the last of beasts, or the first of fishes; for it cannot positively be pronounced either the one or the other. It partakes of the nature of the former, by its two forefeet, or hands; but the hind-legs, which are almost concealed in the bodies of the seal and walrus, are entirely wanting in the manati; which has only a large tail, spreading out like a fan. This animal, therefore, partakes of the nature of a fish, by the hinder parts of its body, and of a

quadruped by the fore-feet on each side of the breast."

Oviedo, to whom we are indebted for the first account of the manati; describes it, as a clumsy and ill-shaped animal, having the head thicker than that of an ox, with small eyes, and two feet, or hands, placed near the head, which serve the purpose of swimming. The animal has no scales, but is covered with a thick hide, sprinkled with hairs or bristles; and the length of the body, in some individuals, is upwards of fifteen feet by six feet in thickness. The flesh is excellent eating, when fresh; but still more so when cut in pieces and pickled; as in that state, it acquires the flavor of the tunny fish. The female has two paps on her breast, and suckles her young.

Clasius saw and measured the skin of a manati, which he found to be sixteen feet and a half long, and seven feet and a half wide: the two feet were very broad, and the claws short. Gammara tells us that he has sometimes seen them twenty feet long, and adds that the animals frequent fresh-water rivers as well as the sea. He says, a young one was reared in a lake in the island of St. Domingo, where it remained twenty-six years; that it was so docile and tame as to come out of the water, for food, when called; that it seemed delighted with the human voice, and was so fond of children that it would suffer them to sit upon its back, and carry them from

one end of the lake to the other, without plunging them into the water; and that it seemed entirely devoid of fear.

Binet says, that this animal is as large as an ox, and as round as a tun; that his head is small and his tail short; that his skin is thick and tough, like that of an elephant; that his grease is as sweet as butter; and that some of them will yield six hundred weight of eatable flesh. He adds, that they delight to be near the efflux of rivers, where they browse upon the marine weeds which grow on the banks; and that they are extremely numerous at the distance of a few leagues from Cayenne.

Pere Tertre agrees almost in every respect with the accounts of the above-mentioned authors; but adds that the manati has only four toes and four claws on each foot; that he feeds on a short vegetable which grows in the sea, and which he eats nearly in the same manner as the ox; that having pastured sufficiently he makes to the rivers, where he moistens his food; and that he sleeps with his nose half way out of the water, so that he may be seen at a distance.

In a voyage to the American islands, printed at Paris, in the year 1722, the author gives a tolerably good description of the manati, and agrees with all the principal facts already produced. "This animal," says he, "is become very rare in the Antilles since the coasts have been inhabited. One which I saw and measured was fourteen feet

nine inches from the muzzle to the tail: his head was very thick, with a large mouth and lips, which were furnished with coarse hairs; his eyes were small in proportion to his head; and he had only two holes in the sides instead of ears: his neck was very thick and short, and were it not for the wrinkles occasioned by his motions it would be impossible to tell his head from his body. The female has two round breasts, each about seven inches in diameter, and about four in their elevation. The body was eight feet two inches in circumference; and the tail was like a large battledore, about nineteen inches long, fifteen inches broad at the widest part, and about three inches thick at the extremity. The skin on the back was about double the thickness of an ox's hide, but much thinner on the belly; it was of a very coarse grain, and of a slate colour; as were also the hairs or bristles. This animal weighed about eight hundred pounds, and the young one taken with it was nearly three feet long.

Gumilla states that there are immense numbers of manati in the great lake of Oronoko. "These animals," says he, "weigh from five hundred to seven hundred pounds each: their eyes are small, and the holes for their ears still smaller. They pasture on the sea shores when the river is low. The milk of the female is very thick, and she carries her young at her paps; and grasps them so strongly with her hands, or

M. Adanson's account of the manati.

fore-feet, that they cannot fall off. When a storm of rain approaches, they leap out of the water to a considerable height.

The species of the manati is not confined to the seas and rivers, of America, but exist also in those of Africa. M. Adanson saw manatis at Senegal, whence he brought one of their heads, and presented it to the Comte de Buffon; at the same time communicating the following description, which he made on the spot.

“ I saw many of these animals; the largest was not more than eight feet long, and weighed about eight hundred pounds. A female, which was five feet three inches long, weighed only one hundred and ninety-four pounds. They are of a dark ash-colour, and have hairs scattered over their bodies, very long, and like bristles. The head is conical, and of a middling size, with respect to the bulk of the body. The eyes are round and very small; the iris of a deep blue, and the pupil black. The muzzle is almost cylindrical; the cheeks are nearly of an equal breadth, and the lips are thick and very fleshy. The tongue is of an oval form, and joined almost to the end of the lower jaw. The animal has two arms, placed close to the head, which is not distinguishable from the rest of the body by any kind of neck, nor even any apparent shoulders. The tail is horizontal, like that of the whale, and is partly in the form of a baker's shovel. The skin is thin on the belly, thick on the back, but

Mode of taking the manati.

thickest of all on the head. The fat is white, and two or three inches thick; the flesh is of a pale red colour, and more delicate than veal.

To take the manati, the hunters, or fishermen, row themselves in a boat, or on a raft, as near the animal as possible, and then dart a very strong arrow at him, to the end of which a long cord is fastened: feeling himself wounded, he instantly swims away, or plunges to the bottom; but the cord has a cork, or piece of wood, fastened to the end of it, to serve as a buoy, and direct them which way he takes. When the animal begins to grow faint and weak through loss of blood, he swims toward the shore; the cord is then wound up, and the manati drawn within arm's length of the boat, where they dispatch him with spears and other weapons.

Some writers tell us, that the female produces two young at a time, which follow her wherever she goes, and that when the mother is taken, the young are an easy prey, as they will never desert her body, living or dead. Others, however, assert that the manati never brings forth more than one young at a time; and this seems most probable from its analogy to the nature of all other large quadrupeds or cetaceous animals.

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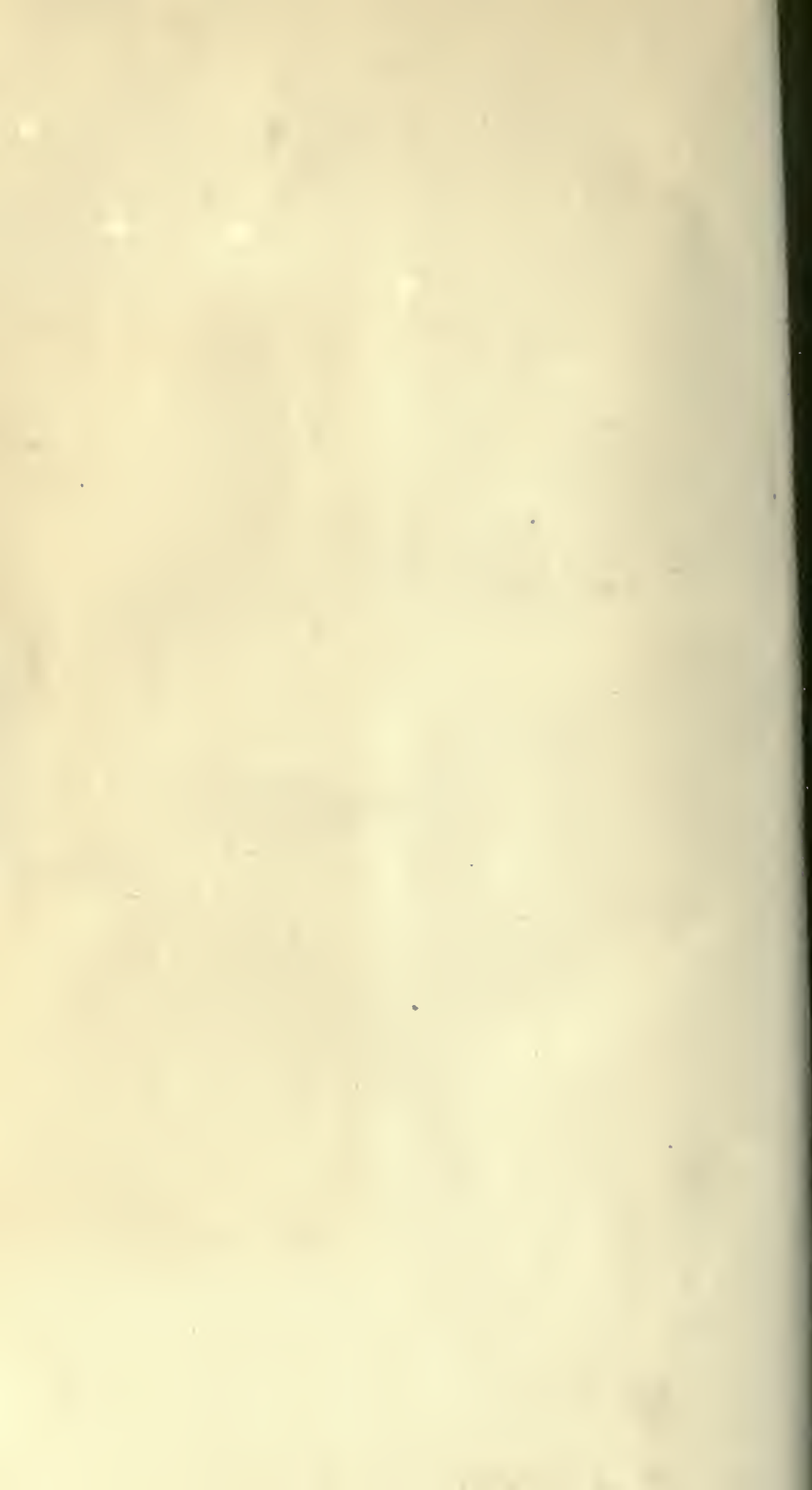
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